

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

15 MAY 13 A9:55

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 143

Submitted by the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Finance on MAY 13 2015.

Re: Senate Bill No. 2763

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 924 and 1440.

Sponsor: Senator Pimentel III

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Finance, to which were referred **Senate Bill No. 924**, introduced by Senator Lapid, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF
THE STAFF OF ELECTORAL CANDIDATES AND REGISTERED
NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES"**

and **Senate Bill No. 1440**, introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ABSENTEE VOTING FOR LAWYERS"

have considered the same and have the honor to report these bills back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached bill, **Senate Bill No. 2763**, prepared jointly by the Committees, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF ABSENTEE VOTING FOR
QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL STAFF OF NATIONAL
CANDIDATES AND ACCREDITED NATIONAL POLITICAL
PARTIES AND PARTY-LISTS, AND ELECTION LAWYERS"**


be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 924 and 1440 with Senators Lapid, Defensor Santiago, Pimentel III, and Escudero as authors.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons



FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Electoral Reforms and
People's Participation



AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III
Committee on Electoral Reforms and
People's Participation
Member, Committee on Finance

Vice Chairpersons

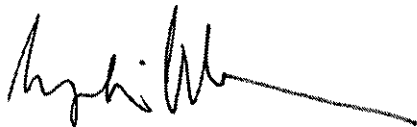


SERGIO R. OSMENA III
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Electoral Reforms and
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GRACE POE
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Member, Committee on Finance

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Committee on Finance



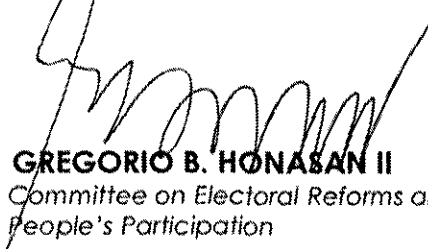
ANTONIO "SONNY" TRILLANES IV
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JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Committee on Finance

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
Committee on Finance

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Committee on Finance

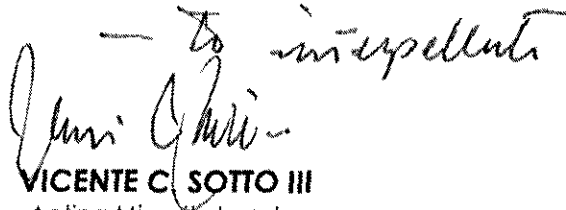

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
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RALPH G. RECTO
President Pro-Tempore

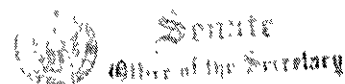
ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO"S. CAYETANO
Majority Leader

JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Minority Leader

— to interpellate

VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Acting Minority Leader

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President
Senate of the Philippines

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



15 MAY 13 A9 55

SENATE
S. No. 2763

RECEIVED BY: J.

(In Substitution of SBNs 924 and 1440)

Prepared by the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation;
and Finance with Senators Lapid, Defensor Santiago, Pimentel III, and
Escudero as authors

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF ABSENTEE
VOTING FOR QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE
ELECTORAL STAFF OF NATIONAL CANDIDATES AND
ACCREDITED NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND
PARTY-LISTS, AND ELECTION LAWYERS**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to
2 ensure the free exercise of the right of suffrage by all citizens of the Philippines
3 not otherwise disqualified by law.

4

5 **SECTION 2.** *Local Absentee Voting for the Electoral Staff of National*
6 *Candidates and Accredited National Political Parties.* – The Commission on
7 Elections (COMELEC) shall extend the right to vote under the local absentee
8 voting system provided under existing laws and executive orders, to the
9 electoral staff of national candidates, except candidates for district

1 representative, and accredited national political parties and party-lists, who are
2 duly registered voters, and who, on election day, may not be able to vote due to
3 the performance of their functions as electoral staff in the conduct, monitoring,
4 and ensuring the integrity of election-related activities.

5
6 For purposes of this Act, the number of electoral staff of a national
7 candidate, an accredited national political party, or an accredited party-list that
8 may avail of the right to vote under the local absentee voting system shall be
9 limited to the total number of provinces, highly urbanized cities, and
10 independent component cities.

11
12 **SECTION 3.** *Local Absentee Voting for Election Lawyers.* – The
13 COMELEC shall extend the right to vote under the local absentee voting system
14 provided under existing laws and executive orders to members of the Integrated
15 Bar of the Philippines, who are duly registered voters, and who, on election day,
16 may not be able to vote due to the performance of their functions in monitoring
17 the observance of laws during the elections.

18 For purposes of this Act only, a maximum of three (3) election lawyers
19 per candidate, accredited national political party, or accredited party-list shall be
20 allowed to avail of the right to vote under the local absentee voting system.

21
22 **SECTION 4.** *Limitations.* – Persons covered by this Act shall only be
23 allowed to vote for the positions of President, Vice-President, Senators, and
24 Party-List Representative.

25
26 **SECTION 5.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The COMELEC
27 shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the
28 implementing rules and regulations which shall include a system of

1 accreditation and verification of the electoral staff of national candidates and
2 accredited national political parties and party-lists, and of election lawyers, who
3 are qualified to avail of local absentee voting.
4

5 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the
6 implementation and enforcement of this Act shall be charged against the current
7 year’s appropriations or from any available savings of the COMELEC.
8 Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation
9 of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.
10

11 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, and
12 issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
13 Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
14

15 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision of this Act or
16 part hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not
17 affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.
18

19 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
20 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,