

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
S. No. 2139

19 JAN 14 P12:59

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

**AN ACT REORGANIZING THE OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION ON
ELECTIONS (COMELEC)**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to vote and elect our leaders is at the heart of our freedom and democracy. Our ability to choose our leaders is the most compelling indication that power does fall in the hands of the people, and not just a chosen few.

This manifestation of People Power must continuously be protected and promoted by each generation.

As such, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) exists as a constitutional body mandated to safeguard this precious right to suffrage, as well as ensure safe and honest elections. It is these public servants that we must empower to remain incorruptible and loyal to the Filipino people.

Unfortunately, there is a gap between the salary grade of our COMELEC officers and other government agency employees, despite similar qualifications and equivalent positions. It is no surprise then that the COMELEC Employees' Union has been requesting for higher remuneration.

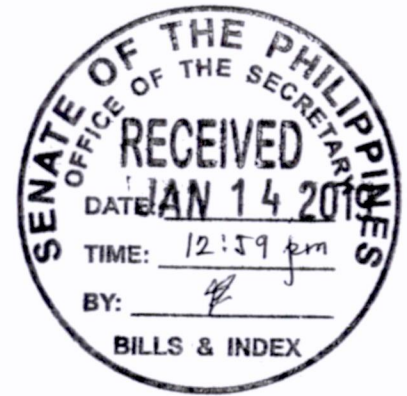
It is high time that we listen to these calls to reorganize COMELEC and provide better compensation as COMELEC officers serve a crucial role in our democracy.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this reform is earnestly sought.

Bern Aquino

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as "An Act Reorganizing
2 COMELEC Offices."

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In accordance with the equal protection
4 clause of the Constitution, it is the State's responsibility to provide adequate and
5 appropriate remuneration to employees with the ultimate goal of achieving equal
6 pay for equal work in government service.

7 Sec. 3. *Field Offices.* – The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall have
8 the following field offices:

9 1) Regional Election Office, headed by the Regional Election Director and
10 assisted by the Assistant Regional Election Director, Regional Election
11 Attorney with the rank of Attorney V, Human Resource Management Officer,
12 Budget Officer, Finance Officer, Assistant Election Specialist, Stenographic
13 Reporter III, Process Server, Watchman Officer, Administrative Aide, Driver
14 and any such other subordinate officers or employees necessary in the
15 exigency of service for the said office.

1 2) Provincial Election Office, headed by the Provincial Election Director similar to
2 the rank of Director II regardless of the number of registered voters,
3 Computer Maintenance Technologist/Specialist (CMT/CMS) with SG-24,
4 Assistant Election Specialist, Administrative Aide, Driver and any such other
5 subordinate officers or employees necessary in the exigency of service for the
6 said office.

7 3) The National Capital Region shall be divided into five (5) administrative
8 districts, such as North, South, East, Central, and Manila District, or as such
9 number of administrative districts as may be determined by the Commission,
10 which shall be headed and administratively supervised by a District Election
11 Director with the rank of Director II, Computer Maintenance
12 Technologist/Specialist (CMT/CMS) with SG-24, Administrative Assistant V,
13 Administrative Aide, Driver, and any such other subordinate officers or
14 employees necessary in the exigency of service for the said office.

15 4) City/Municipal Office, headed by City/Municipal Election Specialist with the
16 rank of Director I regardless of their place of assignment.

17 5) There shall be a minimum of two Assistant Election Specialists (AES) with SG-
18 21 in every city or municipality provided that for every additional 20,000
19 voters from 50,000 voters, additional AES shall be automatically appointed.

20 The COMELEC may delegate its powers and functions or order the
21 implementation or enforcement of its orders, rulings, or decisions through the
22 heads of its field offices.

23 *Sec. 4. Reclassification and Upgrading of Plantilla Positions in the COMELEC*
24 *Main and Field Offices.* – All the remaining rank and file plantilla positions in the
25 COMELEC main and field offices shall be reclassified and upgraded accordingly by
26 the Commissions on Elections.

27 *Sec. 5. Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of
28 this Act, the Department of Budget and Management and the COMELEC shall adopt
29 and issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

1 Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
2 of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations under the
3 budget of the COMELEC. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
4 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General
5 Appropriations Act.

6 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or section of this Act is declared
7 unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or sections of this
8 Act.

9 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
10 presidential proclamations, letters of implementation, rules and regulations or parts
11 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified accordingly.

12 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,