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NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE) REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES) *First Regular Session*)

'22 AUG 16 P6:22

SENATE

S.B. No. <u>1195</u>

Introduced by SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS

AN ACT EXTENDING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991", AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 25 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments. In the Philippines, there are 43,036 barangays. The barangays serve as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community. They also provide a forum where the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized, and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled.

Barangay officials and Sanggunian Kabataan (SK) members play a key role in their respective communities by enforcing laws and ordinances, maintaining public order, and ensuring the delivery of basic services. They are the front-line civil servants and primary public service providers. They are also the lead implementers of many programs of the government, with a lot of them being crafted in the barangay level, in order to address the need of their local constituents. Currently, barangay officials and SK members have a term of three years. However, the term of barangay officials and SK members may not be enough for the effective implementation of their plans and programs. As such, there is a need to extend their term of office to six years to ensure continuity and stability.

Given the abovementioned circumstances, the immediate passage of this bill is necessary.

IMEE R. MARCOS

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

SECTION 1. Section 43 (c) of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise
 known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby further amended to read, as
 follows:

- 4 SEC. 43. Term of Office. –
- 5
- 6 "x x x"
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"(c) The term of office of barangay officials and members of the sangguniang
kabataan shall be for [three (3)] SIX years, which shall begin after the
SYNCHRONIZED regular election of barangay officials AND MEMBERS OF
THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN on the second Monday of May 1994, AND
EVERY SIX (6) YEARS THEREAFTER. [Provided, That the sangguniang
kabataan members who were elected in the May 1996 elections shall serve until
the next regular election of barangay officials.]

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"NO BARANGAY ELECTIVE OFFICIAL SHALL SERVE FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE TERMS IN THE SAME POSITION. VOLUNTARY RENUNCIATION OF OFFICE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN INTERRUPTION IN THE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE FOR THE FULL TERM FOR WHICH THE ELECTIVE OFFICIAL WAS ELECTED."

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8 **SEC. 2.** All incumbent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials shall remain 9 in office unless sooner removed or suspended for cause until their successors shall have 10 been elected and qualified. The provisions of the Omnibus Election Code relative to the 11 failure of elections and special elections are hereby reiterated in this Act.

SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Commission on Elections
 (COMELEC) shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary, within ninety (90)
 days, after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional,
 other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and binding.

20 **SEC. 5.** *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, 21 rules and regulations, or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby likewise 22 repealed or amended accordingly.

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SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation

Approved,