

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL -7 19:18

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 525

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

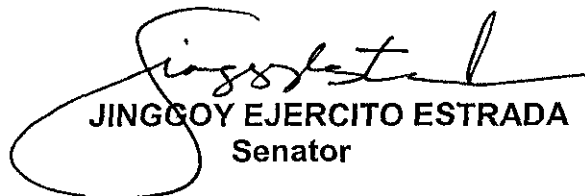
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

History has proven that national and local elections in our country are always characterized by widespread and systematic fraud at all levels with incidents of violence and terrorism in certain areas. Although present election laws provide for penalties for the commission of election-related offenses, these, however, are not enough to deter violators from committing the same.

This proposed legislative measure seeks to increase the range of penalties for the commission of certain election-related offenses in order to provide a better deterrent with the end in view of ensuring clean, orderly, honest and credible elections for the country's future generation.

Immediate passage of this bill is thus earnestly recommended.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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AN ACT  
AMENDING ARTICLE 264 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS  
AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 264 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise known  
as the Omnibus Election Code, as amended, is hereby to read as follows:

**"SEC. 264. Penalties.** – Any person found guilty of  
any election offense under this Code shall be punished with  
imprisonment of not less than **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1)  
DAY** [one year] but not more than **TWELVE (12) YEARS** [six  
years] and shall not be subject to probation. In addition, the  
guilty party shall be sentenced to suffer **PERMANENT**  
disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the  
right of suffrage. If he is a foreigner, he shall be sentenced  
deportation which shall be enforced after the prison term has  
been served. Any political party, **COALITION PARTY,  
PARTY-LIST, OR GROUP ORGANIZED FOR POLITICAL  
PURPOSE** found guilty shall be sentenced to pay a fine of  
not less than **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (Php 500,  
000.00)** [ten thousand] pesos, which shall be imposed upon  
such after criminal action has been instituted in which their  
corresponding officials have been found guilty.

In case of prisoner or prisoners illegally release from  
any penitentiary or jail during the prohibited period as  
provided in Section 261, paragraph (n) of this Code, the  
director of prisons, provincial warden, keeper of the jail or  
prison, or persons who are required by law to keep said  
prisoner in their custody shall, if convicted by a competent  
court, be sentenced to suffer to penalty of **RECLUSION  
PERPETUA** [*prison mayor* in its maximum period] if the  
prisoner or prisoners so illegally released commit any act of  
intimidation, terrorism or interference in the election.

**SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, orders, rules and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*