

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. ~~20~~ 15

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Introduced by **REP. FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR.**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise known as the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines, mandated that candidates could spend an aggregate amount not exceeding one peso and fifty centavos for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his candidacy. Similarly, political parties could spend an aggregate amount not exceeding the equivalent of one peso and fifty centavos for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

Republic Act 7166, enacted in 1991, amended the provisions of the Omnibus Election Code and increased the allowed expenditures for candidates and political parties. Candidates are allowed to spend Three Pesos (P3.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy, and candidates without any political party and without support from any political party are allowed to spend Five Pesos (P5.00) for every such voter. Candidates for President and Vice President, on the other hand, are allowed a larger sum of Ten pesos (P10.00). Meanwhile, political parties are allowed Five pesos (P5.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

Twenty five years later, these figures have yet to be updated to reflect inflation and the eroded purchasing power of the Philippine Peso. The limitations also hinder candidates from launching campaigns that could reach even the most remote of places in the country, for fear of running afoul of the law. This bill seeks to amend the law to increase the allowed campaign expenditures of candidates and political parties to realistic amounts, in order to accurately reflect the current cost of goods and services and promote greater voter reach and education.

With these amendments in place, the law will accurately reflect the current economic landscape and allow candidates to pay the full and fair price of the goods and services they wish to engage. The amendments will likewise allow candidates to maximize their resources to effectively communicate their platforms and ideas to a greater number of their constituents, which could translate into a voting public that is more active, intelligent, and aware.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought,

  
FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR.

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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED EXPENSES OF CANDIDDATES AND**  
**POLITICAL PARTIES DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, AMENDING FOR**  
**THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, AS AMENDED**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 13. Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties. - The agreement amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

- (a) For all candidates. - **FIFTY PESOS (P50.00)** [Ten pesos (P10.00)] for President and Vice-President; and for other candidates Three Pesos (P3.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy: Provided, That a candidate without any political party and without support from any political party may be allowed to spend Five Pesos (P5.00) for every such voter; and]
- (b) For political parties. - **THIRTY (P30.00)** [Five Pesos (P5.00)] for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties

for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission shall not be subject to the payment of any gift tax.

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS SHALL ADJUST THE AUTHORIZED AMOUNT BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS FOLLOWING THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT."

**SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed repealed, amended or modified.

**SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,