

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 297

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**Introduced by Representatives**  
**Horacio P. Suansing, Jr. and Estrellita B. Suansing**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Barangay leaders are the foundation of governance at the community level, especially in parts of the country that are remote and hard-to-reach. According to the Local Government Code of 1991: "As the basic political unit, the Barangay serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects and activities in the community, as a forum wherein the collective views of people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled." Officials in the country's 42,036 barangays are not only the frontliners in delivering various government services that attend to the basic needs of our people, they are also the primary facilitators of citizen empowerment and engagement so that government is responsive to the true needs of the citizens it serves.

Strengthening barangay governance is thus at the heart of making government more effective, accountable, and inclusive in its public service. In recent years, the Administration has spearheaded various innovations to serve the country's poorest of the poor and engage them in the business of governance, notable through the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and the Bottom Up Budgeting (BUB) process. The effective implementation of these and other government priority programs depend on barangay structures that work, led by empowered barangay leaders.

The thrust of this bill is to undertake a much-needed reform in barangay governance so that its critical role in providing government service and facilitating participatory processes can be fully unlocked. In particular, the reform is anchored in the continuity in the service of barangay elective officials.

Various government agencies spend millions of pesos and countless hours orienting newly elected barangay officials on the conduct of their responsibilities and on relevant government processes. The resources that are devoted for these orientation sessions and the knowledge and skills these build on each new batch of officials can be better maximized if barangay officials are able to serve longer terms. In this regard, the bill proposes to amend the term of barangay officials from three consecutive three-year terms to three consecutive five-year terms, with the hopes of facilitating continuity in the service of barangay officials and higher likelihood for improving the reach and quality of the programs they can offer to their communities.

The proposed reform is needed more than ever, especially as we seek to ensure that the growth the country has experienced in recent years is truly felt, especially by those at the margins of society. Barangay officials, as the face of the government for most of our people, require opportunities for continuity championed by this bill to be effective agents of public service.

This measure has been filed during the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress as House Bill No. 6442 and considered approved by the Committee on Local Government. Thus, a study on the matter has been done.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of the bill is earnestly sought.

  
**HON. HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat

  
**HON. ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija

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**AN ACT**

**CHANGING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ELECTIVE BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FROM THREE (3) YEARS TO FIVE (5) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Term of Office.** – Section 43 of Republic Act No. 7160, as  
2 amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby  
3 further amended to read as follows:

4       **“SECTION 43. Term of Office.** – (a) The term of all elective officials after  
5 the effectivity of this Code shall be three (3) years, starting from noon of  
6 June 30, 1992 or such date as may be provided for by law, except that  
7 of elective barangay officials and members of the sangguniang kabataan:  
8 *Provided, That all local officials first elected during the local elections*  
9 *immediately following the ratification of the 1987 Constitution shall*  
10 *serve until noon of June 30, 1992.*

11       (b) No local elective official shall serve for more than three (3)  
12 consecutive terms in the same position. Voluntary renunciation of the  
13 office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in  
14 the continuity of service for the full term for which the elective official  
15 concerned was elected.

1 (c) The term of office of barangay officials and members of the  
2 sangguniang kabataan shall be for FIVE (5) [three (3)] years, which shall  
3 begin after the SYNCHRONIZED regular election of barangay AND  
4 SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN officials on the LAST [second] Monday of  
5 OCTOBER 2018. [May 1997; *Provided*, That the sangguniang kabataan  
6 members who were elected in the May 1996 elections shall serve until  
7 the next regular election of barangay officials.]

8 (D) NO BARANGAY ELECTIVE OFFICIAL SHALL SERVE FOR  
9 MORE THAN THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE TERMS IN THE SAME  
10 POSITION: *PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TERM OF OFFICE SHALL*  
11 *BE RECKONED FROM THE SYCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND*  
12 *SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS HELD ON THE LAST MONDAY*  
13 *OF OCTOBER 2007. VOLUNTARY RENUNCIATION OF OFFICE FOR*  
14 *ANY LENGTH OF TIME SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN*  
15 *INTERRUPTION IN THE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE FOR THE FULL TER,*  
16 *FOR WHICH THE BARANGAY ELECTIVE OFFICIAL WAS ELECTED.*

17 **SEC. 2. *Resetting of Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang***  
18 ***Kabataan Elections.*** - The synchronized barangay and sangguniang  
19 kabataan elections scheduled to be held on the last Monday of October 2016  
20 shall be rest to the last Monday of October 2018. Subsequent synchronized  
21 barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held every five (5) years  
22 thereafter.

23 **SEC. 3. *Holdover.*** - All incumbent barangay and sangguniang kabataan  
24 officials shall remain in office unless sooner removed or suspended for cause  
25 until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The provisions of  
26 the Omnibus Election Code relative to the failure of elections and special  
27 elections are hereby reiterated in this Act.

28 **SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** - Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by  
29 Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10742 and all laws, rules and  
30 regulations, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed,  
31 amended or modified accordingly.

32 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
33 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

34 ***Approved,***