

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 331

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Local Government Code of 1991 provides that, 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. Barangays play extremely crucial roles in the execution of government programs and the delivery of government services. However, experience has shown that a term of office of three years is too short for elective barangay officials to be very effective. A longer term of office is required to enable barangay officials to properly carry out their mandates and improve the reach and quality of the programs and services they can offer to their constituents. Moreover, a longer term of office means that barangays will not be very frequently subjected to the stresses and pressures of politics and electoral competition. Besides, present law allows for the recall or removal of ineffective or erring officials. However, an extension in the duration of the terms of office of elective barangay officials should be coupled with a reduction in their term limits. Hence, under this proposed measure, the term of office of elective barangay officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) shall be changed from three years to five years and elective barangay officials may serve for only two consecutive terms in the same position.

Finally, while Barangay and SK Elections are supposed to be non-partisan, experience has also shown that the rivalries between candidates and their supporters in such elections can be very intense and full of enmity. With antagonism from the 2016 National and Local Elections still lingering, it is best not to hold another divisive electoral activity so soon. The country needs a respite from heated and bruising electoral contests. It is thus proposed that the coming Barangay and SK Elections scheduled on the last Monday of October 2016 be moved to the last Monday of October 2016. With the resetting of the elections, it is also proposed that all incumbent elective barangay officials shall remain in office, unless sooner removed for cause, permanently incapacitated, shall have died or resigned from office, until their successors have been elected and qualified.

In view of all the foregoing, the support of the Members of Congress for the prompt and timely passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____ **331**

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO

AN ACT
CHANGING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ELECTIVE BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND
MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FROM THREE YEARS TO FIVE
YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF 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. Section 43 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the
2 Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 “SECTION 43. Term of Office. – (a) The term of office of all elective officials
5 elected after 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 of elective
7 barangay officials and members of the sangguniang kabataan: Provided, That all local
8 officials first elected during the local elections immediately following the ratification
9 of the 1987 Constitution shall serve until noon of June 30, 1992.

10
11 (b) No local elective official shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms in
12 the same position. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall
13 not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of service for the full term for
14 which the elective official concerned was elected.

15
16 (c) The term of barangay officials and members of the sangguniang kabataan shall be
17 for FIVE (5) [three (3)] years, which shall begin after the SYNCHRONIZED regular
18 election of barangay AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN officials on the LAST

1 [second] Monday of OCTOBER 2018 [May 1997: Provided, That the sangguniang
2 kabataan members who were elected in the May 1996 elections shall serve until the
3 next regular election of barangay officials].

4
5 (D) NO ELECTIVE BARANGAY OFFICIAL SHALL SERVE FOR MORE THAN
6 TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE TERMS IN THE SAME POSITION; PROVIDED,
7 HOWEVER, THAT THE TERM OF OFFICE SHALL BE RECKONED FROM
8 THE SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN
9 ELECTIONS HELD ON THE LAST MONDAY OF OCTOBER 2007.
10 VOLUNTARY RENUNCIATION OF OFFICE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME
11 SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN INTERRUPTION IN THE CONTINUITY
12 OF SERVICE FOR THE FULL TERM FOR WHICH THE BARANGAY
13 ELECTIVE OFFICIAL WAS ELECTED.”

14
15 SEC. 2. The synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections scheduled on the last
16 Monday of October 2016 shall be reset to the last Monday of October 2018. Subsequent
17 synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections shall be held every five (5) years
18 thereafter.

19
20 SEC. 3. All incumbent elective barangay officials shall remain in office, unless sooner removed
21 for cause, permanently incapacitated, shall have died or resigned from office, until their
22 successors shall have been elected and qualified.

23
24 SEC. 4. RA No. 9164, as amended by RA No. 9340, and RA No. 10744, otherwise known as the
25 Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, are hereby amended or modified accordingly. All
26 other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are
27 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
28 accordingly.

29

1 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or
2 in a newspaper of general circulation.

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4 Approved,

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