

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 604



Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

**AN ACT POSTPONING THE DATE OF THE BARANGAY ELECTIONS TO
OCTOBER 2018, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With this proposed measure, we are seeking to postpone and/or reset the forthcoming barangay elections from its originally-set schedule of October this year to October 2018, amending for this purpose of Republic Act No. 9340.

The country just had a divisive and highly-contentious electoral exercise last May. Early announcement of political plans by the incoming Duterte administration apparently includes the holding of elections for a Constitutional Convention that will propose revisions to the 1987 Constitution. Hence, it would be prudent and logical that the barangay elections be held to coincide with said proposed Constitutional Convention elections sometime in the last quarter of 2018.

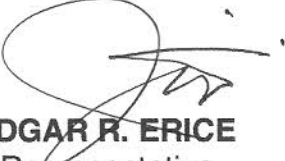
It is already common knowledge that elections are very expensive exercises, usually entailing billions of pesos to conduct. Holding the barangay elections this year and then conducting a separate election for Con-Con delegates afterwards will easily double the cost to public coffers. The billions of pesos that can be saved by reason of postponing the barangay elections and holding it simultaneously with the Con-Con elections can be used instead for other government projects like construction of roads, bridges, school buildings and other urgent endeavors.

Perhaps it is worth recalling that the barangay, being the basic unit of our country's socio-political structure, was designed to be beyond the influence of partisan politics. In fact, the Honorable Supreme Court has clearly pronounced that "it would definitely enhance the objective and impartial discharge of their duties for barangay officials to be shielded from political loyalty" (*Occena v. Comelec*, GR L-60258, January 1984).

The proposed postponement would in effect give an extension of an additional two (2) years for our incumbent barangay officials; time that is sufficient for them to finish whatever worthy programs that they have started, but more importantly, to

ensure stability in our barangay affairs while the new national administration is instituting the wide-ranging changes that it has vowed during the last campaign.

In view of the foregoing, support for the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly solicited.



EDGAR R. ERICE
Representative
2nd District, Caloocan

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9340 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1. Date of Election. - The Barangay elections to be held on 10 October 2016 is hereby postponed and/or reset to 08 October 2018.”

Section 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9340 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. Assumption of Office. - The term of office of elective barangay officials under this Act shall commence on 30 November 2018, following their election.”

Section 3. The provisions of Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9340 with regard to “hold over”, shall remain in full force and applicable in this Act.

Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Commission on Elections shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

Section 5. Separability Clause. - Should any provision or part hereof be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise

affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,