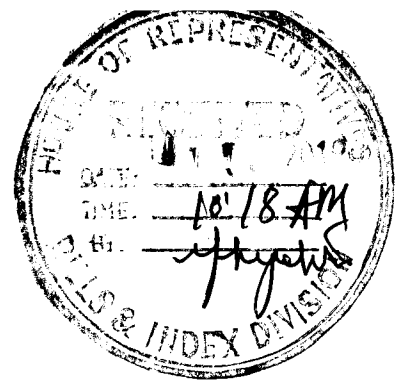


**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL No. 180

**Introduced by Representatives
HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR. and ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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."

Barangay leaders are at the very foundation of governance at the community level, especially in parts of the Philippines that are remote and are generally inaccessible by public transport. Officials in the country's 42,045 barangays are not only at the forefront of delivering various government services that attend to the basic needs of their people, but are also the primary facilitators of citizen empowerment and engagement within their respective jurisdictions. In recent years, several programs spearheaded and expanded by the national government, such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and the Bottom Up Budgeting (BUB) process, have depended on the effectivity of barangay structures led by barangay officials. These programs have been vital in serving individuals at the most basic political level and, more importantly, have been successful in ensuring that constituents are engaged in the business of local governance.


Thus, strengthening governance at the barangay level is essential in ensuring a more effective, inclusive and accountable system of government in every level of political service. With the critical role of barangay governance in providing government services and facilitating participatory processes among citizens, there ought to be a strong emphasis on providing for an institutional structure that is congenial to the continual fulfillment of these duties by barangay officials. The following measure endeavors to provide for such a structure by introducing the amendment of the length of term of barangay officials from a three-year period to a five-year period.

This measure introduces the amendment of Section 43 (c) of the Local Government Code of 1991, which defines the length of term of barangay officials, primarily for the following reasons: that it would aid in a more focused approach to public service by barangay officials in

a longer period of time, given that barangay officials, without pressing political factors such as election campaigns as immediate distractions, are more incentivized to build and strengthen long-term professional relationships with local sectors and stakeholders; that it would prevent significant expenses, both monetary (e.g. the tens of millions of pesos spent on election campaigns and, subsequently, the millions of pesos' worth of resources devoted to orienting newly-elected barangay officials on the conduct of their responsibilities and on other relevant processes at the barangay level) and practical (e.g. the time spent on political maneuvering by officials instead of improving the reach and quality of the programs they can offer to their communities), that ultimately result to deadweight losses to the members of society, and therefore would ensure that most political resources are purposed towards the continuous provision of public services to citizens and the improvement of methods for their provision; and finally, as it would promote a more concordant relationship between barangay officials, members of local sectors and other local stakeholders, that it would foster a consensus-based political environment at our most basic political level where citizen empowerment by political participation is encouraged, which, in effect, would significantly benefit our national political and economic institutions.

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. In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of the bill is earnestly sought.¹


HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.
2nd District of Sultan Kudarat


ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING
1st District of Nueva Ecija

¹ This bill was filed by Rep. Horacio P. Suansing, Jr. and Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing during the 16th Congress and the 17th Congress as House Bill No. 6442 and House Bill 297, respectively.

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1991

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

SECTION 1. Section 43 (c) of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended by Republic Acts Numbered 8524, 9164, 10632, 10656, 10923 and 10952, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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

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

(c) The term of barangay officials and members of the sangguniang kabataan shall be for five (5) years, which shall begin after the SYNCHRONIZED regular election of barangay officials AND MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN on the second Monday of May [1997] 2023, AND EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS THEREAFTER. [*Provided*, That the sangguniang kabataan members who were elected in the May 1996 elections shall serve until the next regular election of barangay officials.]

NO BARANGAY OFFICIAL SHALL SERVE FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE TERMS IN THE SAME POSITION. VOLUNTARY RENUNCIATION OF OFFICE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME SHALL NOT BE

CONSIDERED AS AN INTERRUPTION IN THE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE FOR THE FULL TERM FOR WHICH THE ELECTIVE OFFICIAL WAS ELECTED.”

SECTION 2. The term of office of barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected in the May 2023 elections and subsequently thereafter, shall commence at noon of June 30 next following their election.

SECTION 3. All incumbent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials shall remain in office unless sooner removed or suspended for cause until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The provisions of the Omnibus Election Code relative to the failure of elections and special elections are hereby reiterated in this Act.

SECTION 4. All laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,