

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 420

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Elections in the Philippines are always costly exercises, both for the candidate and the government. Candidates spend a lot just to get elected.

Also, it is of common knowledge that elections, whether national, local or barangay, prove to be divisive among the populace. Candidates and their supporters try to destroy their opponents by using any means necessary just to be able to secure victory.

For the 2019 Midterm elections, the COMELEC has reportedly spent P6 billion. And the Filipino people are just starting to recover from the stress and division that the midterm elections brought. Staging another election in 2020, even if it is the barangay elections would definitely cause more stress and division among the population. Also, the scheduled barangay elections for 2020 will just be 2 years from the last barangay elections in May 2018. The incumbent officials will only have a 2 year term. This is unjust and impractical and will likewise breed instability in the barangays.

A 4-year term is more logical and will promote better and more sustainable development of the barangays.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

POSTPONING THE MAY 2020 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923 AND REPUBLIC ACT 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10656, Republic Act No. 10923 and Republic Act 10952 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Date of Election. – There shall be synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections which shall be held on July 15, 2002. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of October 2007 and every three (3) years thereafter: *Provided,* That the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on October 23, 2017 shall be postponed to the second Monday of May 2018. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the second Monday of [May 2020] **OCTOBER 2022** and every three (3) years thereafter. .

SEC 2. Hold-over of Incumbent Elective Officials – Incumbent Barangay Officials shall remain and continue in Office in a hold-over capacity until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, unless sooner removed or suspended for cause.

SEC 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The COMELEC shall, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SEC 4. Separability Clause – Should any of the provisions of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 5. Repealing Clause – All laws, presidential decrees and issuances, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 6. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,