COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 266

Submitted by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms on MAR 04 2020.

Re : House Bill No. 6470

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5254

Sponsors : The Honorable Representatives Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer and Stella Luz A. Quimbo

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, to which was referred House Bill No. 5254, introduced by Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT 10366, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO ESTABLISH PRECINCTS ASSIGNED TO ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES EXCLUSIVELY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS"

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 6470, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10366, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO ESTABLISH PRECINCTS ASSIGNED TO ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES EXCLUSIVELY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS"

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 5254 with the Representatives Stella Luz A. Quimbo and Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer as the authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

[Signature]
REP. JULIET MARIE DE LEON FERRER
Chairperson
Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms
AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10366, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO ESTABLISH PRECINCTS
ASSIGNED TO ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES EXCLUSIVELY
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 (j) of Republic Act No. 10366 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 2 (j). Accessible polling place refers to the venue where the Board of
Election Inspectors (BEIs) conducts election-related proceedings and where the voters
cast their votes. The accessible polling place shall be located at the ground floor,
preferably near the entrance of the building, SHALL BE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, and [is] SHALL BE free of any physical barriers and
provided with necessary INFRASTRUCTURE AND services, including assistive devices,
RAMPS, RAILINGS, SIDEWALKS, ADEQUATE LIGHTING, VENTILATION AND
OTHER FEATURES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS.”

SEC. 2. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 10366 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 9. [Creation of] Precincts for Persons with Disabilities and Senior
Citizens. — The Commission is hereby authorized to [establish] DESIGNATE precincts
(of a nonterritorial nature.) IN ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES FOR THE EXCLUSIVE
USE OF [exclusively for] persons with disabilities and senior citizens, SUCH AS IN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TOWN HALLS OR PLAZAS, CIVIC CENTERS, COMMUNITY
CENTERS OR OTHER SIMILARLY DESIGNATED SPECIAL VENUES OR AREAS, AND
PREFERABLY THOSE DESIGNED WITH SPECIAL FEATURES, TO ENSURE THEIR
SAFETY AND COMFORT. [who in their registration records manifest their intent to
avail of their right to a separate precinct under this section. Pursuant hereto, the
Commission shall establish at least one (1) such precinct, assigned to accessible polling
places, for every voting center.] Such precincts shall be provided with assistive devices
PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2 (J) OF THIS ACT as well as the
services of experts in assisting persons with disabilities.”
SEC. 3. Within sixty (60) days from its effectivity, the Commission shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 5. All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department
6470
FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 5254

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT 10366, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON
ELECTIONS TO ESTABLISH PRECINCTS ASSIGNED TO ACCESSIBLE
POLLING PLACES EXCLUSIVELY FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
AND SENIOR CITIZENS"

Introduced by: REP. STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO
Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS
Committee Chairperson: REP. JULIET MARIE DE LEON FERRER

OBJECTIVES:

- To improve the voting experience of the vulnerable sector by assigning an earlier voting
day for our elderly and the PWDs, thus ensuring an expedited, streamlined and
convenient voting process and promote greater involvement of citizenry in the electoral
process.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates that the Commission on Elections is authorized to designate precincts assigned
to accessible polling places with the premises of the Municipal Hall or City Hall;

- Provides that the COMELEC shall extend the right to vote under the local absentee voting
system provided under the existing laws and executive orders, to PWDs and senior
citizens who are duly registered voters.

RELATED LAWS:

- Batas Pambansa Blg. 881
- Republic Act No. 10366
- Republic Act No. 7166