

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2181

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND R. GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO REVIEW THE AMOUNTS OF
HONORARIA AND ALLOWANCES GRANTED TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND
OTHER PERSONS RENDERING ELECTION SERVICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 4 OF
REPUBLIC ACT 10756 OR THE *ELECTION SERVICE REFORM ACT*

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act 10756, entitled *An Act Rendering Election Service Non-Compulsory For Public School Teachers, Authorizing the Appointment of Other Qualified Citizens, Providing for Compensation and other Benefits, or the Election Service Reform Act* (ESRA) the amounts of honoraria and allowances granted to public school teachers, other personnel of the Department of Education, and other persons rendering election service "shall be reviewed by the Commission in consultation with the DepEd every three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, but in no case, shall the revised amounts be lower than herein provided";

WHEREAS, according to the law, the Chairpersons of Electoral Boards are granted honoraria of ₱6,000; Members of Electoral Boards, ₱5,000; DepEd Supervisor Officials, ₱4,000; and support staff, ₱2,000. They are further entitled to an additional travel allowance of ₱1,000 each;

WHEREAS, the passage of this law was a product of the longstanding campaign of public school teachers and DepEd personnel for adequate and humane compensation

for all poll workers, and in part due to the fact that the amounts of honoraria and allowances provided by the Omnibus Election Code and relevant implementing rules of the Commission on Elections, which RA 10756 amended, provided for much-lower level of compensation packages for poll workers;

WHEREAS, the ESRA was enacted in April 2016—five years ago—yet the amounts have not once been reviewed and increased;

WHEREAS, aside from the annual increase of the voting population, it cannot be gainsaid that the functions of chairpersons, members, and staffers of the various electoral boards have also been increased, their workload have become heavier, and the risks they are subjected to have become much more dangerous. Expenses for travel and other necessities for poll service have likewise risen compared to five years ago when ESRA was enacted;

WHEREAS, the COMELEC has previously stated that it will likely adopt a twelve-hour election day—or voting hours from 6:00 in the morning to 6:00 in the evening—as among the contingencies to minimize and prevent COVID-19 infection and transmission. A twelve-hour election day will mean that poll workers will have to undertake election duties for around 17 hours, considering that they fulfill tasks other than supervision of voting centers, such as transporting election paraphernalia. This much time outside their homes and level of activity will significantly increase the exposure of poll workers to the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, with these factors, the COMELEC should likewise review the entire compensation package for persons rendering election service, which includes service credits, death and/or medical assistance, and legal assistance and indemnification;

WHEREAS, the COMELEC should also review the necessity of giving a COVID-19 daily hazard pay to all election service volunteers to compensate for their heightened risk of contracting the virus for every day that they are ;

WHEREAS, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers has voiced, on behalf of public school teachers (who comprise the majority of poll workers every election) and other poll workers, a demand for increased ESRA benefits, namely, honoraria of ₱10,000 for Chairpersons of Electoral Boards, ₱9,000 for Members of Electoral Boards, ₱8,000 for DepEd Supervisor Officials, and ₱7,000 for support staff as well as travel allowance of ₱3,000 to ₱5,000 and food allowance of ₱2,500;

WHEREAS, while it is true that poll workers are volunteers who undertake election duties and accept the attendant risks by choice, it is also true that they render an extraordinary service and unparalleled sacrifice to ensure the sanctity of a major

democratic exercise. Indeed, it would be most unjust if government pays election frontliners pre-pandemic compensation during these pandemic times.

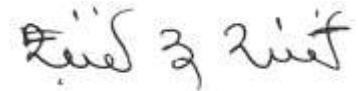
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives urge the Commission on Elections to review the amounts of honoraria and allowances granted to public school teachers, other personnel of the Department of Education, and other persons rendering election service pursuant to its mandate under Section 4 of Republic Act 10756 or the *Election Service Reform Act*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives seriously consider the increase of these honoraria and allowances, and adopt the proposal of the Commission on Elections for a greater budget for the conduct and supervision the May 9, 2022 elections, which includes the budget for the honoraria and allowances.

Adopted,




Rep. FRAN E L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



Rep. FERDINAND GAITE
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