

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1040

Submitted by the Committees on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms and Appropriations on June 1, 2021.

Re: House Bill No. 9562

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 286, 519, 1488, 1489, 1490, 2839, 4565, 7837, 7868 and 8756

Sponsors: Representatives Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Rufus B. Rodriguez and Estrellita B. Suansing

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms and Appropriations, to which were referred House Bill No. 286 introduced by Reps. Estrellita B. Suansing & Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS”

House Bill No. 519 introduced by Rep. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR QUALIFIED EARLY VOTING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES, AND WORKERS REQUIRED TO WORK ON ELECTION DAY”

House Bill No. 1488 introduced by Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan. M.D., entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS IN NATIONAL
AND LOCAL ELECTIONS”

House Bill No. 1489 introduced by Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan. M.D., entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS”

House Bill No. 1490 introduced by Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan. M.D., entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED LAWYERS IN NATIONAL AND
LOCAL ELECTIONS”

House Bill No. 2839 introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS”

House Bill No. 4565 introduced by Rep. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS”

House Bill No. 7837 introduced by Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS”

House Bill No. 7868 introduced by Rep. Ronnie L. Ong

“AN ACT
PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND PROMOTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES BY INSTITUTING THE
NEW NORMAL OF VOTING OR EARLY VOTING SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

and House Bill No. 8756 introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

have considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No.
9562, entitled:

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING BY QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

be approved in substitution of House Bill Numbered 286, 519, 1488, 1489, 1490, 2839, 4565, 7837, 7868 and 8756 with Representatives Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan. M.D., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Pantaleon D. Alvarez, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Ronnie L. Ong, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Eric Go Yap, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Ma. Bernardita "Ditas" B. Ramos, Tyrone D. Agabas, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Ria Christina G. Fariñas, Angelo Marcos Barba, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Junie E. Cua, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, Greg G. Gasataya, Ed Christopher S. Go., David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Micaela S. Violago, Alfel M. Bascug, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Fernando T. Cabredo, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Alan R. Dujali, Michael B. Gorriceta, Eduardo "Eddie" R. Gullas, Godofredo N. Guya, Glona G. Labadlabad, Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Hector S. Sanchez, Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Arlene D. Brosas, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Roman T. Romulo, Ron P. Salo, Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Ma. Victoria V. Umali and Rodolfo M. Ordanes as the authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



JULIET MARIE DE LEON FERRER
Chairperson
Committee on Suffrage and
Electoral Reforms

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9562

(In substitution of House Bill Numbered 286, 519, 1488, 1489, 1490, 2839,
4565, 7837, 7868 and 8756)

Introduced by the Honorable Representatives Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan. M.D., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Pantaleon D. Alvarez, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Ronnie L. Ong, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Eric Go Yap, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Ma. Bernardita “Ditas” B. Ramos, Tyrone D. Agabas, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Ria Christina G. Fariñas, Angelo Marcos Barba, Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Elenita Milagros “Eileen” Ermita-Buhain, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Junie E. Cua, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I, Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III, Greg G. Gasataya, Ed Christopher S. Go., David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez, Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada, Micaela S. Violago, Alfel M. Bascug, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Fernando T. Cabredo, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Alan R. Dujali, Michael B. Gorriceta, Eduardo “Eddie” R. Gullas, Godofredo N. Guya, Glona G. Labadlabad, Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Hector S. Sanchez, Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Arlene D. Brosas, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Roman T. Romulo, Ron P. Salo, Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Ma. Victoria V. Umali and Rodolfo M. Ordanes

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING BY QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the
2 State to make voting convenient for senior citizens and persons with

1 disabilities (PWDs) by giving them the option to vote earlier than the date set
2 for the elections.

3 **SEC. 2. *Early Voting.*** - For national and local elections, there shall be early
4 voting where qualified senior citizens and PWDs may choose to cast their
5 ballot at accessible establishments designated by the Commission on
6 Elections (COMELEC) within seven (7) working days before the date set for
7 the elections.

8
9 **SEC. 3. *Registration.*** - There shall be a nationwide registration for senior
10 citizens and PWDs to qualify them to avail of this early voting privilege. Those
11 who are not registered under this Act shall vote on Election Day.

12
13 **SEC. 4. *Obligations of the COMELEC.*** - To ensure the effective
14 implementation of this Act, the COMELEC shall:

15
16 (a) Keep a record of senior citizens and PWDs who are registered voters;

17
18 (b) Design a registration system, in coordination with local government
19 units, the National Council on Disability Affairs, the Commission on Human
20 Rights, the Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local
21 Government, that allows senior citizens and PWDs to register and opt for early
22 voting;

23
24 (c) Ensure that polling places are safe and accessible to senior citizens
25 and PWDs, and properly fitted with the necessary communication, visual and
26 physical aids, as mandated under Republic Act No. 10366 entitled, An Act
27 Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts Assigned to
28 Accessible Polling Places Exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and Senior
29 Citizens”; and

30
31 (d) Mount an intensive information campaign on early voting for qualified
32 senior citizens and PWDs.

33
34 **SEC 5. *Appropriations.*** – The initial amount for the implementation of this
35 Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the
36 COMELEC. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual
37 General Appropriations Act.

38
39 **SEC. 6. *Applicability of Other Laws.*** - The provisions of Batas Pambansa
40 Blg. 881 or the Omnibus Election Code; Republic Act No. 7166, entitled, “An
41 Act Providing for Synchronized National and Local Elections and for Electoral
42 Reforms, Authorizing Appropriations Therefor, and for Other Purposes”; and
43 other election laws not inconsistent herewith shall be applied to facilitate early
44 voting for qualified senior citizens and PWDs.

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46 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within ninety (90) days from
47 its effectivity, the Commission shall promulgate the rules and regulations for
48 the implementation of this Act.

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SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - 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 9. Repealing Clause. - 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. 10. Effectivity. - 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

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 9562

(In substitution of House Bill Numbered 286, 519, 1488, 1489, 1490, 2839, 4565,
7837, 7868 and 8756)

AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING BY QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS**

*Introduced by: Representatives Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.,
Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.,
Rufus B. Rodriguez, Pantaleon D. Alvarez, Edward Vera Perez Maceda,
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Ma. Victoria V. Umali and Rodolfo M. Ordanes*

*Committee Referral: **Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms**
Committee Chairperson: **Rep. Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer***

OBJECTIVE:

- To enhance the access of qualified senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) to the right of suffrage.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates that there shall be early voting where qualified senior citizens and PWDs may choose to cast their ballot at accessible establishments designated by the Commission on Elections within seven (7) working days before the date set for the election;

- Mandates the conduct of a nationwide registration for senior citizens and PWDs to qualify them to avail of the early voting privilege;
- Provides that those who are not registered under this Act shall vote on Election Day.

RELATED LAWS:

- Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, *Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines*
- Republic Act No. 7166, *An Act Providing for Synchronized National and Local Elections and for Electoral Reforms, Authorizing Appropriations Therefor, and for Other Purposes*
- Republic Act No. 10366, *An Act Authorizing the Commission of Elections to Establish Precincts Assigned to Accessible Polling Places Exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens*