

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session



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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1069

Submitted by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms and the Committee on Appropriations on July 6, 2021.

Re : House Bill No. 9785

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1991, 3144, 3468, 3493, 4574, 4900, 5330, 5498, 5745, 6026 and 7275.

Sponsors : The Honorable Representatives Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Eric Go Yap, Rufus B. Rodriguez and Johnny T. Pimentel

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Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms and the Committee on Appropriations, to which were referred

House Bill No. 1991, introduced by Rep. Frederick W. Siao, entitled:

*“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE FIELD OFFICES FOR THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR AND ELECTION REGISTRAR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 55 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES,” AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”*

House Bill No. 3144, introduced by Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing, entitled:

*“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISION OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTIONS CODE”, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”*

House Bill No. 3468, introduced by Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, entitled:

*“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTIONS CODE”, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”*

House Bill No. 3493, introduced by Rep. Eric L. Olivarez, entitled:

*“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTIONS CODE”, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”*

House Bill No. 4574, introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

*“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTIONS CODE”, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”*

House Bill No. 4900, introduced by Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, entitled:

*“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTIONS CODE”, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”*

House Bill No. 5330, introduced by Rep. Marisol C. Panotes, entitled:

*“AN ACT PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) BY REMOVING FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT THE BURDEN OF PROVIDING AN OFFICE SPACE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR AND HIS STAFF AND THE ELECTION REGISTRAR AND HIS STAFF, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 55 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 881, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”*

House Bill No. 5498, introduced by Rep. Irene Gay F. Saulog, entitled:

*“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE”, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”*

House Bill No. 5745, introduced by Rep. Manuel DG. Cabochan III, entitled:

*“AN ACT MANDATING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE OFFICE SPACES OF ITS FIELD OFFICES, HEREBY REPEALING SECTION 55 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED”*

House Bill No. 6026, introduced by Rep. Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva and Domingo C. Rivera, entitled:

*“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 55 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”*

House Bill No. 7275, introduced by Rep. Johnny T. Pimentel, entitled:

*“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSES PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE”, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”*

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 9785,  
entitled:

“AN ACT  
STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS BY INCREASING THE  
MANPOWER COMPLEMENT IN ITS FIELD OFFICES, PROVIDING OFFICE SPACES  
SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS  
PAMBANSA BLG. 881, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "OMNIBUS  
ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1991, 3144, 3468, 3493, 4574, 4900, 5330, 5498, 5745, 6026 and 7275 with the Honorable Representatives Frederick W. Siao, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Eric L. Olivarez, Rufus B. Rodriguez, John Marvin “Yul Servo” Nieto, Marisol C. Panotes, Irene Gay F. Saulog, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Domingo C. Rivera, Johnny T. Pimentel, Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D., "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Henry R. Villarica, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Eric Go Yap, Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe, Junie E. Cua and Angelo Marcos Barba as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:



**HON. ERIC GO YAP**

Chairperson  
Committee on Appropriations



**HON. JULIET MARIE DE LEON FERRER**

Chairperson  
Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9785

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 1991, 3144, 3468, 3493,  
4574, 4900, 5330, 5498, 5745, 6026 and 7275)

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Introduced by the Honorable Representatives Frederick W. Siao, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Eric L. Olivarez, Rufus B. Rodriguez, John Marvin “Yul Servo” Nieto, Marisol C. Panotes, Irene Gay F. Saulog, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Domingo C. Rivera, Johnny T. Pimentel, Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D., "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Henry R. Villarica, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Eric Go Yap, Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe, Junie E. Cua and Angelo Marcos Barba

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**AN ACT**  
**STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS BY INCREASING THE**  
**MANPOWER COMPLEMENT IN ITS FIELD OFFICES, PROVIDING OFFICE**  
**SPACES SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
**UNITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AMENDING FOR THE**  
**PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE "OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The State hereby affirms and recognizes the independence of the  
2 Commission on Elections as guaranteed under Article IX, Part A, Section 1 of the  
3 Constitution. As such, the Commission shall ensure and preserve its integrity  
4 and independence by increasing the manpower complement in its field offices,  
5 and providing office spaces separate and independent from local government  
6 units.

7  
8 **SEC. 2.** Section 53 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, as amended, is hereby amended  
9 to read as follows:

10

1       **“Section 53.** Field offices of the Commission. - The Commission shall  
2 have the following field offices:

3       (1) Regional Election Office, headed by the Regional Election Director and  
4 assisted by the Assistant Regional Director and such other subordinate  
5 officers or employees as the Commission may appoint[.], **IN**  
6 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, POSITION**  
7 **CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STANDARDS.**

8       (2) [Provincial Election Office, headed by the Provincial Election Supervisor  
9 and assisted by such other subordinate officers or employees as the  
10 Commission may appoint] **PROVINCIAL ELECTION OFFICE, HEADED**  
11 **BY THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR FOR EACH PROVINCE.**  
12 **EACH PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR SHALL BE ASSISTED BY**  
13 **AT LEAST ONE (1) ELECTION ASSISTANT AND SUCH NUMBER OF**  
14 **ASSISTANTS AND SUBORDINATE OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES AS THE**  
15 **COMMISSION MAY APPOINT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**  
16 **ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND**  
17 **COMPENSATION STANDARDS. A PROVINCIAL ELECTION**  
18 **SUPERVISOR IS AUTHORIZED TO HIRE CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL**  
19 **TO PERFORM ADMINISTRATIVE OR CLERICAL WORKS FOR THE**  
20 **EXPEDIENCY OF SERVICE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIVIL**  
21 **SERVICE LAWS.**

22       (3) [City, Municipal Election Office, headed by the City, Municipal  
23 Registrar who shall be assisted by an election clerk and other employees  
24 as the Commission may appoint] **CITY, MUNICIPAL OR ELECTORAL**  
25 **DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICE, HEADED BY THE CITY, MUNICIPAL OR**  
26 **ELECTORAL DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER FOR EACH CITY,**  
27 **MUNICIPALITY OR ELECTORAL DISTRICT. THE CITY, MUNICIPAL**  
28 **OR ELECTORAL DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER SHALL BE ASSISTED**  
29 **BY AT LEAST ONE (1) ELECTION ASSISTANT AND SUCH NUMBER OF**  
30 **ASSISTANTS AND SUBORDINATE OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES AS THE**  
31 **COMMISSION MAY APPOINT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**  
32 **ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND**  
33 **COMPENSATION STANDARDS. AN ELECTION OFFICER IS**  
34 **AUTHORIZED TO HIRE CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL TO PERFORM**  
35 **ADMINISTRATIVE OR CLERICAL WORK FOR THE EXPEDIENCY OF**  
36 **SERVICE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.**

37       The Commission may delegate its powers and functions or order the  
38 implementation or enforcement of its orders, rulings, or decisions through  
39 the heads of its field offices.

1 **SEC. 3.** New sections to be denominated as Sections 53-A and 53-B are hereby  
2 inserted after Section 53 of the same Act to read as follows:

3  
4 **“SECTION 53-A. AUTOMATIC CREATION OF POSITIONS OF**  
5 **ELECTION OFFICERS AND ELECTION ASSISTANTS. – IF A NEW CITY,**  
6 **MUNICIPALITY OR ELECTORAL DISTRICT IS CREATED, THE**  
7 **POSITIONS OF ELECTION OFFICER AND ELECTION ASSISTANTS ARE**  
8 **AUTOMATICALLY CREATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**  
9 **ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND**  
10 **COMPENSATION STANDARDS AND SUBJECT TO THE SUBMISSION**  
11 **TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) OF A**  
12 **RESOLUTION STATING THE CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION AND**  
13 **STAFFING. THERE MUST BE ONE (1) ELECTION ASSISTANT FOR**  
14 **EVERY TWENTY THOUSAND (20,000) REGISTERED VOTERS.**

15  
16 **SECTION 53-B. ASSIGNMENT IN FIELD OFFICE. – NO OTHER**  
17 **PERSONNEL, EXCEPT THOSE MENTIONED IN SECTION 53- OF THIS**  
18 **ACT OR EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY LAW, MAY BE ASSIGNED,**  
19 **DESIGNATED OR DETAILED AT ANY FIELD OFFICE OF THE**  
20 **COMMISSION. ANY PERSONNEL PERFORMING ADMINISTRATIVE OR**  
21 **CLERICAL WORK MAY ONLY BE HIRED BY THE HEAD OF THE FIELD**  
22 **OFFICE. VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION CONSTITUTES AN**  
23 **ELECTION OFFENSE.”**

24  
25 **SEC. 4.** Section 55 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

26  
27 “Section 55. Office space. – [The local government concerned shall  
28 provide a suitable place for the office of the provincial election  
29 supervisor and his staff and the election registrar and his staff:  
30 Provided, That in case of failure of the local government concerned to  
31 provide such suitable place, the provincial election supervisor or the  
32 election registrar, as the case may be, upon prior authority of the  
33 Commission and notice to the local government concerned, may lease  
34 another place for office and the rentals thereof shall be chargeable to  
35 the funds of the local government concerned.] **THE COMMISSION**  
36 **SHALL PROVIDE SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT OFFICE**  
37 **SPACES FOR ITS FIELD OFFICES, THE COST OF WHICH SHALL**  
38 **BE CHARGED TO ITS YEARLY APPROPRIATIONS.”**

39  
40 **SEC. 5.** The initial amount for the implementation of this Act shall be charged  
41 against the current available appropriations of the Commission. Thereafter, the  
42 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

43  
44 **SEC. 6.** Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall  
45 formulate a plan to transfer its field offices from the facilities of local government

1 units to the facilities owned or leased by the Commission. The plan shall provide  
2 for a complete transfer of all field offices of the Commission within five (5) years  
3 from the effectivity of this Act.

4  
5 **SEC. 7.** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson  
6 of the Commission shall, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and  
7 Local Government and the Secretary of Budget and Management, promulgate  
8 the rules and regulations implementing the provision of this Act.

9  
10 **SEC. 8.** If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the  
11 remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force  
12 and effect.

13  
14 **SEC. 9.** All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances,  
15 presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are  
16 contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed,  
17 amended or modified accordingly.

18  
19 **SEC. 10.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
20 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

21  
22 *Approved,*

**House of Representatives**  
**Committee Affairs Department**

**FACT SHEET**

**House Bill No. 9785**

(In substitution of House Bill Numbered 1991, 3144, 3468, 3493, 4574, 4900, 5330,  
5498, 5745, 6026 & 7275)

**AN ACT**

**STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS  
BY INCREASING THE MANPOWER COMPLEMENT IN ITS FIELD OFFICES,  
PROVIDING OFFICE SPACES SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT FROM LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, AS AMENDED,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES"**

*Introduced by: Representatives Frederick W. Siao, Cristal L. Bagatsing,  
Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Eric L. Olivarez, Rufus B. Rodriguez,  
John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto, Marisol C. Panotes, Irene Gay F. Saulog,  
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Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Junie E. Cua and Angelo Marcos Barba*

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

**OBJECTIVE:**

- To ensure and preserve the integrity and independence of the Commission on Elections by increasing the manpower complement in its field offices, providing office spaces separate and independent from local government units and appropriating funds therefor

**KEY PROVISIONS:**

- Mandates that the Regional Election Office shall be headed by the Regional Election Director and assisted by the Assistant Regional Director and such other subordinate officers or employees as the Commission may appoint, in accordance with the organization, staffing, position classification and compensation standards;
- Provides that each provincial election supervisor shall be assisted by at least one (1) election assistant and such number of assistants and subordinate officers or employees as the Commission may appoint, in accordance with the organization, staffing, position classification and compensation standards;



- Mandates that a provincial election supervisor is authorized to hire contractual personnel to perform administrative or clerical works for the expediency of service and in accordance with the civil service laws;
- Provides that the City, Municipal or District Election Office shall be headed by the city, municipal or district election officer, respectively. The city, municipal or district election officer shall be assisted by at least one (1) election assistant and such number of assistants and subordinate officers or employees as the Commission may appoint, in accordance with the organization, staffing, position classification and compensation standards;
- Provides that an election officer is authorized to hire contractual personnel to perform administrative or clerical work for the expediency of service and in accordance with the civil service laws;
- Mandates that if a new City, Municipal or Electoral District is created, the positions of election officer and election assistants are automatically created in accordance with the organization, staffing, position classification and compensation standards and upon submission to the DBM of a resolution stating the changes in the organization and staffing. There must be one (1) election assistant for every twenty thousand (20,000) registered voters;
- Provides that no other personnel, except those mentioned in Section 53, on field offices of the Commission of this Act or expressly authorized by law, may be assigned, designated or detailed at any field office of the Commission. Any personnel performing administrative or clerical work may only be hired by the head of the field office. Violation of this provision constitutes an election offense;
- Mandates that the Commission shall provide separate and independent office spaces for its field offices, the cost of which shall be charged to its yearly appropriations.

#### **RELATED LAWS:**

- ☐ Sections 53 and 55 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, *Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines*