

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
First Regular Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4046

---

---

INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMEN PALACOL, CHIPECO, JR., CAINGLET, GARCIA (P.), BERNARDEZ, DUREZA, MATHAY, JR., JAVIER (E.), JAVIER (R.), BACALTOS, JOSON, JR., VELOSO, ORTEGA, DOMINGO, JR., ABAYA, MERCADO (R.G.), CABOCHAN (G.), ALBANO, ABLAN, JR., ASPIRAS, CERILLES, DIMAPORO, ESCUDERO III, ESTRELLA III, ESTRELLA, JR., CONGRESSWOMAN GORDON, CONGRESSMEN NALUPTA, JR., NAVARRO, SR., RESPICIO, ROÑO, SERAPIO, TIROL, TUZON, DAYANGHIRANG, CONGRESSWOMAN REYES, CONGRESSMEN ANDOLANA, WEBB, CHAVES, MASTURA, PADILLA, UNICO, CABOCHAN (J.), CAMASURA, JR., BANDON, JR., MONFORT AND CONGRESSWOMAN LABARIA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 48

---

---

AN ACT INTRODUCING ADDITIONAL REFORMS IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known and cited  
2 as “The Electoral Reforms Law of 1987.”

3 SEC. 2. *Law Governing Elections.* — The first local  
4 elections under the new Constitution and all subsequent  
5 elections and plebiscites shall be governed by this Act and

1 by the provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise  
2 known as the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines,  
3 and other election laws not inconsistent with this Act.

4       SEC. 3. *Voters in Cities.* — The registered voters of a  
5 highly urbanized city shall not vote in the election for  
6 provincial officials of the province in which it is located.  
7 No component city shall be declared or classified as a highly  
8 urbanized city within sixty (60) days prior to a local election.

9       The registered voters of a component city shall be  
10 entitled to vote in the election for provincial officials of  
11 the province of which it is a part, unless its charter pro-  
12 vides otherwise. The qualified voters of the Cities of  
13 Mandaue, Ormoc, Oroquieta, Dagupan and San Carlos  
14 (Pangasinan), however, shall henceforth be entitled to vote  
15 for elective provincial officials of the province where it is  
16 a part and that any of such voters can be a candidate for  
17 any elective provincial office thereof.

18       SEC. 4. *Certificates of Candidacy; Certified Lists of*  
19 *Candidates.* — The certificates of candidacy shall be filed  
20 in twelve legible signed copies with the offices mentioned  
21 in Section 75 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881. In cities with  
22 more than one election registrar, the Commission on  
23 Elections, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, shall  
24 designate the election registrar who shall receive the

1 certificates of candidacy.

2 In lieu of the additional copies of the certificate of  
3 candidacy equal to twice the number of polling places  
4 which a candidate is required to file under said Section 75,  
5 the Commission shall cause to be printed certified lists of  
6 candidates containing the names of all registered candidates  
7 for each office to be voted for in each province, city or  
8 municipality immediately followed by the nickname or  
9 stage name of each candidate duly registered in his  
10 certificate of candidacy and his political party affiliation,  
11 if any. Said list shall be posted inside each voting booth  
12 during the voting period.

13 Whenever practicable, the board of inspectors shall  
14 cause said list of candidates to be written clearly and legibly  
15 on the blackboard or on manila paper for posting at a con-  
16 spicuous place inside the polling place.

17 *SEC. 5. Procedure in Cases of Nuisance Candidates.*

18 — (a) A verified petition to declare a duly registered candi-  
19 date as a nuisance candidate under Section 69 of Batas  
20 Pambansa Blg. 881 shall be filed personally or through duly  
21 authorized representative with the Commission by any  
22 registered candidate for the same office within five (5)  
23 days from the last day for the filing of certificates of candi-  
24 dacy.

1 Filing by mail shall not be allowed.

2 (b) Within three (3) days from the filing of the petition,  
3 the Commission shall issue summons to the respondent  
4 candidate together with a copy of the petition and its  
5 enclosures, if any.

6 (c) The respondent shall be given three (3) days from  
7 receipt of the summons within which to file his verified  
8 answer (not a motion to dismiss) to the petition, serving  
9 copy thereof upon the petitioner. Grounds for a motion to  
10 dismiss may be raised as affirmative defenses.

11 (d) The Commission may designate any of its officials  
12 who are lawyers to hear the case and receive evidence. The  
13 proceeding shall be summary in nature. In lieu of oral tes-  
14 timonies, the parties may be required to submit position  
15 papers together with affidavits or counter-affidavits and  
16 other documentary evidence. The hearing officer shall  
17 immediately submit to the Commission his findings, reports,  
18 and recommendations within five (5) days from the com-  
19 pletion of such submission of evidence. The Commission  
20 shall render its decision within five (5) days from receipt  
21 thereof.

22 (e) The decision, order, or ruling of the Commission  
23 shall, after five (5) days from receipt of a copy thereof  
24 by the parties, be final and executory unless stayed by the

1 Supreme Court.

2 (f) The Commission shall within twenty-four hours,  
3 through the fastest available means, disseminate its decision  
4 or the decision of the Supreme Court to the city or municipal  
5 election registrars, boards of election inspectors and the  
6 general public in the political subdivision concerned.

7 SEC. 6. *Effect of Disqualification Case.* — Any candi-  
8 date who has been declared by final judgment to be dis-  
9 qualified shall not be voted for, and the votes cast for him  
10 shall not be counted. If for any reason a candidate is not  
11 declared by final judgment before an election to be dis-  
12 qualified and he is voted for and receives the winning num-  
13 ber of votes in such election, the Court or Commission shall  
14 continue with the trial and hearing of the action, inquiry,  
15 or protest and, upon motion of the complainant or any  
16 intervenor, may during the pendency thereof order the  
17 suspension of the proclamation of such candidate when-  
18 ever the evidence of his guilt is strong: *Provided, however,*  
19 That if the ground for disqualification is the respondent  
20 candidate's lack of age or residence qualification as required  
21 by law, the Court or Commission shall dismiss the action  
22 or protest and terminate the trial or hearing and the can-  
23 didate who received the winning number of votes shall  
24 be proclaimed elected.

141

1        SEC. 7. *Petition to Deny Due Course To or Cancel a*  
2 *Certificate of Candidacy.* — The procedure hereinabove  
3 provided shall apply to petitions to deny due course to or  
4 cancel a certificate of candidacy as provided in Section 78  
5 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881.

6        SEC. 8. *Representatives of Parties During Printing*  
7 *of Returns and Ballots.* — The registered political parties  
8 or coalitions of parties, or their components should there  
9 be any dissolution or division of said coalition, whose can-  
10 didates obtained at least ten percent (10%) of the total  
11 votes cast in the next preceding senatorial election shall  
12 each have a watcher and/or representative in the procure-  
13 ment and watermarking of papers to be used in the printing  
14 of election returns and official ballots and in the printing,  
15 numbering, storage, and distribution thereof.

16        SEC. 9. *Public Forum.* — The Commission shall en-  
17 courage non-political, non-partisan private or civic organi-  
18 zations to initiate and hold in every city and municipality,  
19 public fora at which all registered candidates for the same  
20 office may simultaneously and personally participate to  
21 present, explain, and/or debate on their campaign platforms  
22 and programs and other like issues. The Commission shall  
23 promulgate the rules and regulations for the holding of such  
24 fora to assure its non-partisan character and the equality

1 of access thereto by all candidates.

2       SEC. 10. *Common Poster Areas.* — The Commission  
3 shall designate common poster areas in strategic public  
4 places such as markets, barangay centers and the like wherein  
5 candidates can post, display, or exhibit election propaganda  
6 to announce or further their candidacy.

7       Whenever feasible, common billboards may be installed  
8 by the Commission and/or non-partisan private or civic  
9 organizations which the Commission may authorize when-  
10 ever available, after due notice and hearing, in strategic  
11 places where it may be readily seen or read, with the heaviest  
12 pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic in the city or municipality.

13       The space in such common poster areas or billboards  
14 shall be allocated free of charge, if feasible, equitably and  
15 impartially among the candidates in the province, city  
16 or municipality.

17       SEC. 11. *Prohibited Forms of Election Propaganda.*  
18 — In addition to the forms of election propaganda pro-  
19 hibited under Section 85 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, it  
20 shall be unlawful: (a) to draw, paint, inscribe, write, post,  
21 display or publicly exhibit any election propaganda in any  
22 place, whether private or public, except in the common  
23 poster areas and/or billboards provided in the immediately  
24 preceding section, at the candidate's own residence, or at

1 the campaign headquarters of the candidate or political  
2 party: *Provided*, That such posters or election propaganda  
3 shall in no case exceed two (2) feet by three (3) feet in  
4 area: *Provided, further*, That at the site of and on the  
5 occasion of a public meeting or rally, streamers, not more  
6 than two (2) and not exceeding three (3) feet by eight (8)  
7 feet each may be displayed five (5) days before the date of  
8 the meeting or rally, and shall be removed within twenty-  
9 four (24) hours after said meeting or rally; and

10 (b) for any newspaper, radio broadcasting or television  
11 station, or other mass media, or any person making use of  
12 the mass media to sell or to give free of charge print space  
13 or air time for campaign or other political purposes except  
14 to the Commission as provided under Sections 90 and 92  
15 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881. Any mass media columnist,  
16 commentator, announcer or personality who is a candidate  
17 for any elective public office shall take a leave of absence  
18 from his work as such during the campaign period.

19 SEC. 12. *Official Watchers*. — Every registered political  
20 party, coalition of political parties, and every candidate  
21 shall each be entitled to one watcher in every polling place:  
22 *Provided*, That candidates for members of the *Sangguniang*  
23 *Panlalawigan*, *Sangguniang Panlungsod* or *Sangguniang*  
24 *Bayan* or for city or municipal councilors belonging to the



1 same slate or ticket shall collectively be entitled only to  
2 one watcher.

3 There shall also be recognized two principal watchers,  
4 one representing the ruling coalition and the other the  
5 dominant opposition coalition, who shall sit as observers  
6 in the proceedings of the board. The principal watcher  
7 shall be designated on the basis of the recommendation  
8 of the ruling coalition, represented by the political party  
9 of the incumbent elected district representative, and of the  
10 dominant opposition coalition, represented by the political  
11 party which performed best or which polled at least ten  
12 percent (10%) of the votes in the last national election.

13 A duly signed appointment of a watcher shall entitle  
14 him to recognition by the board of election inspectors and  
15 the exercise of his rights and discharge of his duties as such:  
16 *Provided, however,* That only one watcher of each of those  
17 authorized to appoint them can stay at any time inside  
18 the polling place.

19 The watchers shall be permitted full and unimpeded  
20 access to the proceedings so that they can read the names  
21 of those written on the ballots being counted with unaided  
22 natural vision, consistent with good order in the polling  
23 place.

24 In addition to their rights and duties under Section 179  
25 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, the two principal watchers

1 representing the ruling coalition and the dominant opposition  
2 coalition in a precinct shall, if available, affix their signatures  
3 and thumbmarks on the election returns for that precinct.  
4 If both or either of them is not available, unwilling or should  
5 they refuse to do so, any watcher present, preferably with  
6 political affiliation or alignment compatible with that of the  
7 absent or unwilling watcher, may be required by the board  
8 of election inspectors to do so.

9       SEC. 13. *Board of Election Inspectors.* — The board  
10 of election inspectors to be constituted by the Commission  
11 under Section 164 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 shall be  
12 composed of a chairman and two (2) members, one of whom  
13 shall be designated as poll clerk, all of whom shall be public  
14 school teachers, giving preference to those with permanent  
15 appointments. In case there are not enough public school  
16 teachers, teachers in private schools, employees in the civil  
17 service, or other citizens of known probity and competence  
18 who are registered voters of the city or municipality may  
19 be appointed for election duty.

20       SEC. 14. *Per Diems of Boards of Election Inspectors*  
21 *and Other Personnel.* — The chairman and the members of  
22 the boards of election inspectors shall each be paid a per  
23 diem of One hundred pesos (P100.00) on each registration  
24 or revision day and Two hundred pesos (P200.00) on election  
25 day.

1 Support personnel from the Department of Education,  
2 Culture and Sports shall each receive a per diem of P50.00  
3 during election day. Supervisors, principals and other  
4 administrators of the Department of Education, Culture  
5 and Sports, who may be required by the Commission to  
6 perform election duties shall each be entitled to a per diem  
7 of P100.00,

8 Provincial, city and municipal treasurers shall each  
9 receive a per diem of P200.00 on election day.

10 SEC. 15. *Signatures of Chairman and Poll Clerk at*  
11 *the Back of Every Ballot.* — The chairman and the poll  
12 clerk of the board of election inspectors shall affix their  
13 signatures at the back of each and every official ballot to  
14 be used during the voting. A certification to that effect  
15 must be entered in the minutes of the voting.

16 SEC. 16. *Certificate of Votes.* — After the counting  
17 of the votes cast in the precinct and announcement of the  
18 results of the election, and before leaving the polling place,  
19 the board of election inspectors shall issue a certificate  
20 of votes upon request of the duly accredited watchers.  
21 The certificate shall contain the number of votes obtained  
22 by each candidate written in words and figures, the number  
23 of the precinct, the name of the city or municipality and  
24 province, the total number of voters who voted in the pre-

1 cinct, and the date and time issued, and shall be signed  
2 and thumbmarked by each member of the board.

3       SEC. 17. *Certificate of Votes as Evidence.* — The  
4 provisions of Sections 235 and 236 of Batas Pambansa  
5 Blg. 881 notwithstanding, the certificate of votes shall be  
6 admissible in evidence to prove tampering, alteration, fal-  
7 sification or any anomaly committed in the election returns  
8 concerned, when duly authenticated by testimonial or  
9 documentary evidence presented to the board of canvas-  
10 sers by at least two members of the board of election  
11 inspectors who issued the certificate: *Provided*, That failure  
12 to present any certificate of votes shall not be a bar to the  
13 presentation of other evidence to impugn the authenticity  
14 of the election returns.

15       SEC. 18. *Transfer of Counting of Votes to Safer Place.*  
16 — If on account of imminent danger of violence, terrorism,  
17 disorder or similar causes it becomes necessary to transfer  
18 the counting of votes to a safer place, the board of inspectors  
19 may effect such transfer by unanimous approval by the board  
20 and concurrence by the majority of the watchers present.  
21 This fact shall be recorded in the minutes of voting and the  
22 members of the board and the watchers shall manifest  
23 their approval or concurrence by affixing their signatures  
24 therein. The Commission shall issue rules and guidelines

148

1 on the matter to secure the safety of the members of the  
2 board, the watchers, and all election documents and para-  
3 phernalia.

4       SEC. 19. *Number of Copies of Election Returns and*  
5 *their Distribution.* — The election returns required under  
6 Section 212 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 shall be prepared  
7 in sextuplicate. The first copy shall be delivered to the city  
8 or municipal board of canvassers as a body for its use in the  
9 city or municipal canvass. The second copy shall be delivered  
10 to the election registrar of the city or municipality for  
11 transmittal to the provincial board of canvassers for its use  
12 in the provincial canvass. The third copy shall likewise be  
13 delivered to the election registrar for transmittal to the  
14 Commission. The fourth copy, to be known as advance  
15 election returns, shall be delivered to the city or municipal  
16 treasurer who, in the presence of the election registrar  
17 or his authorized representative, shall immediately and  
18 publicly open the same and post the votes therein in an  
19 election board, sufficiently large to enable the public to  
20 read them, built on a public place preferably within the  
21 immediate vicinity of the city hall or municipal building.  
22 The fifth copy shall be deposited in the compartment of the  
23 ballot box for valid ballots. The sixth copy shall be delivered  
24 to the city or municipal trial judge or municipal circuit

1 trial judge, as the case may be, or in his absence to any  
2 official who may be designated by the Commission for  
3 safekeeping. Said copy maybe opened during the canvass upon  
4 order of the board of canvassers for purposes of comparison  
5 with other copies of the returns whose authenticity is in  
6 question.

7 The city or municipal treasurer shall issue certified  
8 copy of any election returns in his possession upon request  
9 of any interested party and payment of the fees required  
10 by existing ordinances.

11 The Commission shall promulgate rules for the speedy  
12 and safe delivery or preservation of the election returns.

13 SEC. 20. *Boards of Canvassers.* — There shall be a  
14 board of canvassers for each province, city and municipality  
15 as follows:

16 (a) *Provincial Board of Canvassers.* — The provincial  
17 board of canvassers shall be composed of the provincial  
18 election supervisor or a lawyer in the regional office of the  
19 Commission, as chairman, the provincial fiscal, as vice-chair-  
20 man, and the provincial superintendent of schools,  
21 as member.

22 (b) *City Board of Canvassers.* — The city board of  
23 canvassers shall be composed of the city election registrar  
24 or a lawyer of the Commission, as chairman, the city fiscal,  
25 as vice-chairman, and the city superintendent of schools,

1 as member. In cities with more than one election registrar,  
2 the Commission shall designate the election registrar who  
3 shall act as chairman.

4 (c) Municipal Board of Canvassers. — The municipal  
5 board of canvassers shall be composed of the election regis-  
6 trar or a representative of the Commission, as chairman, the  
7 municipal treasurer, as vice-chairman, and the most senior  
8 district school supervisor or in his absence a principal of  
9 the school district or the elementary school, as member.

10 The proceedings of the board of canvassers shall be open  
11 and public.

12 SEC. 21. *Substitution of Chairman and Members of the*  
13 *Board of Canvassers.* — In case of non-availability, absence,  
14 disqualification due to relationship, or incapacity for any  
15 cause of the chairman, the Commission shall appoint as  
16 substitute, a ranking lawyer of the Commission. With respect  
17 to the other members of the board, the Commission shall  
18 appoint as substitute the following in the order named:  
19 the Provincial Auditor, the Registrar of Deeds, the Clerk  
20 of Court nominated by the Executive Judge of the Regional  
21 Trial Court, and any other available appointive provincial  
22 official in the case of the provincial board of canvassers;  
23 the officials in the city corresponding to those enumerated,  
24 in the case of the city board of canvassers; and the Municipal

1 Administrator, the Municipal Assessor, the Clerk of Court  
2 nominated by the Executive Judge of the Municipal Trial  
3 Court, or any other available appointive municipal officials,  
4 in the case of the municipal board of canvassers.

5 SEC. 22. *Canvassing Committees.* — The board of  
6 canvassers may constitute such number of canvassing com-  
7 mittees as may be necessary to enable the board to complete  
8 the canvass within the period prescribed under Section 231  
9 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881: *Provided*, That each committee  
10 shall be composed of three members, each member to be  
11 designated by the chairman and members of the board  
12 and that all candidates shall be notified in writing, before  
13 the election, of the number of committees to be constituted  
14 so that they can designate their watchers in each committee.  
15 The committees shall be under the direct supervision and  
16 control of the board.

17 SEC. 23. *Notice of Meetings of the Board.* — At least  
18 five (5) days before the initial meeting of the board of  
19 canvassers, the chairman of the board shall give written  
20 notice to all members thereof and to each candidate and  
21 political party presenting candidates for election in the  
22 political subdivision concerned of the date, time and place  
23 of the meeting. Similar notice shall also be given for sub-  
24 sequent meetings unless notice has been given in open session  
25 of the board. Proof of service of notice to each member,



1 candidate and political party shall be attached to and shall  
2 form part of the records of the proceedings. If notice is  
3 given in open session, such fact shall be recorded in the  
4 minutes of the proceedings.

5       SEC. 24. *Proceedings of the Board.* — The board of  
6 canvassers shall have full authority to keep order within  
7 the canvassing room or hall and its premises and enforce  
8 obedience to its lawful orders. If any person shall refuse  
9 to obey any lawful order of the board or shall so conduct  
10 himself in such disorderly manner as to disturb or interrupt  
11 its proceedings, the board may order any peace officer to  
12 take such person into custody until the adjournment of the  
13 meeting.

14       SEC. 25. *Right to be Present and to Counsel During*  
15 *the Canvass.* — Any registered political party, coalition  
16 of parties, through their representatives, and any candidate  
17 has the right to be present and to counsel during the can-  
18 vass of the election returns: *Provided*, That only one counsel  
19 may argue for each political party or candidate. They shall  
20 have the right to examine the returns being canvassed with-  
21 out touching them, make their observations thereon, and  
22 file their challenges in accordance with the rules and re-  
23 gulations of the Commission. No dilatory action shall be  
24 allowed by the board of canvassers.

1        SEC. 26. *COMELEC Hearings and Proceedings.*

2    In all hearings, inquiries, and proceedings of the Commission,  
3    including preliminary investigations of election offenses,  
4    no person subpoenaed to testify as a witness shall be excused  
5    from attending and testifying or from producing books,  
6    papers, correspondence, memoranda and other records  
7    on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary  
8    or otherwise, required of him, may tend to incriminate him or  
9    subject him to prosecution: *Provided*, That no person shall  
10   be prosecuted criminally for or on account of any matter  
11   concerning which he is compelled, after having claimed the  
12   privilege against self-incrimination, to testify and produce  
13   evidence, documentary or otherwise.

14        Under such terms and conditions as it may determine,  
15   the Commission may grant immunity from criminal prose-  
16   cution to any person whose testimony or whose possession  
17   and production of documents or other evidence may be  
18   necessary to determine the truth in any hearing, inquiry  
19   or proceeding being conducted by the Commission or under  
20   its authority, in the performance or in the furtherance of  
21   its constitutional functions and statutory objectives. The  
22   immunity granted under this and the immediately preceding  
23   paragraph shall not exempt the witness from criminal prose-  
24   cution for perjury or false testimony.

154

1           **SEC. 27. Election Offenses.** — In addition to the pro-  
2           hibited acts and election offenses enumerated in Sections  
3           261 and 262 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, as amended, the  
4           following shall be guilty of an election offense:

5           (a) Any person who causes the printing of official  
6           ballots and election returns by any printing establishment  
7           which is not under contract with the Commission on  
8           Elections and any printing establishment which undertakes  
9           such unauthorized printing.

10          (b) Any member of the board of election inspectors  
11          or board of canvassers who tampers, increases, or decreases  
12          the votes received by a candidate in any election or any  
13          member of the board who refuses, after proper verification  
14          and hearing, to credit the correct votes or deduct such  
15          tampered votes.

16          (c) Any member of the board of election inspectors  
17          who refuses to issue to duly accredited watchers the cer-  
18          tificate of votes provided in Section 16 hereof.

19          (d) Any person who violates Section 11 hereof re-  
20          garding prohibited forms of election propaganda.

21          (e) Any chairman of the board of canvassers who fails  
22          to give notice of meetings to other members of the board,  
23          candidate or political party as required under Section 23  
24          hereof.

1 (f) Any person declared a nuisance candidate as defined  
2 under Section 69 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, or is other-  
3 wise disqualified, by final and executory judgment, who  
4 continues to misrepresent himself, or holds himself out,  
5 as a candidate, such as by continuing to campaign there-  
6 after, and/or other public officer or private individual, who  
7 knowingly induces or abets such misrepresentation, by  
8 commission or omission, shall be guilty of an election offense  
9 and subject to the penalty provided in Section 264 of the  
10 same Code.

11 SEC. 28. *Prosecution of Vote-buying and Vote-selling.*  
12 — The presentation of a complaint for violations of para-  
13 graph (a) or (b) of Section 261 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881  
14 supported by affidavits of complaining witnesses attesting  
15 to the offer or promise by or of the voter's acceptance of  
16 money or other consideration from the relatives, leaders  
17 or sympathizers of a candidate, shall be sufficient basis  
18 for an investigation to be immediately conducted by the  
19 Commission, directly or through its duly authorized legal  
20 officers, under Section 68 or Section 265 of said Batas  
21 Pambansa Blg. 881.

22 Proof that at least one voter in different precincts  
23 representing at least twenty percent (20%) of the total  
24 precincts in any municipality, city or province has been

1 offered, promised or given money, valuable consideration  
2 or other expenditure by a candidate's relatives, leaders and/or  
3 sympathizers for the purpose of promoting the election  
4 of such candidate, shall constitute a disputable presumption  
5 of a conspiracy under paragraph (b) of Section 261 of Batas  
6 Pambansa Blg. 881.

7       Where such proof affects at least twenty percent (20%)  
8 of the precincts of the municipality, city or province to  
9 which the public office aspired for by the favored candidate  
10 relates, the same shall constitute a disputable presumption  
11 of the involvement of such candidate and of his principal  
12 campaign managers in each of the municipalities concerned,  
13 in the conspiracy.

14       The giver, offeror, and promissor as well as the solici-  
15 tor, acceptor, recipient and conspirator referred to in para-  
16 graphs (a) and (b) of Section 261 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881  
17 shall be liable as principals: *Provided*, That any person,  
18 otherwise guilty under said paragraphs who voluntarily  
19 gives information and willingly testifies on any violation  
20 thereof in any official investigation or proceeding shall  
21 be exempt from prosecution and punishment for the offenses  
22 with reference to which his information and testimony  
23 were given: *Provided, further*, That nothing herein shall  
24 exempt such person from criminal prosecution for perjury  
25 of false testimony.

1           SEC. 29. *Designation of Other Dates for Certain Pre-*  
2 *election Acts.* — If it should no longer be reasonably possible  
3 to observe the periods and dates prescribed by law for  
4 certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other  
5 periods and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of the  
6 activities so voters shall not be deprived of their right of  
7 suffrage.

8           SEC. 30. *Effectivity of Regulations and Orders of the*  
9 *Commission.* — The rules and regulations promulgated by the  
10 Commission shall take effect on the seventh day after their  
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)  
12 daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

13           Orders and directives issued by the Commission shall  
14 be furnished by personal delivery to all parties concerned  
15 within forty-eight (48) hours from date of issuance and  
16 shall take effect immediately upon receipt thereof unless  
17 a later date is expressly specified in such orders or directives.

18           SEC. 31. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders,  
19 rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent here-  
20 with are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

21           SEC. 32. *Separability Clause.* — If for any reason,  
22 any section or provision of this Act, or any part thereof,  
23 or the application of such section, provision or portion is  
24 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder thereof

1 shall not be affected by such declaration.

2           SEC. 33. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect upon  
3 its approval.

Approved,

O