



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6928

BY REPRESENTATIVES LOCSIN, ARNAIZ, GUNIGUNDO, JOSON, PIAMONTE,
RODRIGUEZ, ROMUALDO, NOGRALES, GONZALES (N.), DE GUZMAN AND
VILLAFUERTE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2455

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – Elections shall be free and
2 equal. The State shall ensure the exercise of the right of suffrage by all citizens
3 of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law.

4 SEC. 2. *Who are Qualified to Vote.* – Any person, by reason of his/her
5 functions and duties as a member of the media, who is not able to cast his/her
6 vote on election day.

7 SEC. 3. *How to Apply for Early Voting.* – Thirty (30) days before the
8 election, the appropriate head of office shall submit to the Commission on
9 Elections (COMELEC) a list of members of media who are registered voters
10 and, by reason of their duties and functions, will not be able to vote on election
11 day but desire to exercise their right to vote by filling up an application form
12 for early voting.

13 Upon verification by the COMELEC that the persons included in the list
14 are qualified voters, it shall transmit the exact number of application forms to
15 the head of office making the request.

1 SEC. 4. *Who to Vote for, When and Where.* – A member of the media
2 qualified to vote early may cast his/her ballot in the Office of the
3 Municipal/City Election Registrar where he/she is registered during office
4 hours within seven (7) working days before the day of elections. He/She may
5 vote for as many positions available to be voted on as any other qualified voter
6 casting his/her ballot on election day proper.

7 SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The COMELEC shall
8 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

9 SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed to initially implement
10 the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's
11 appropriations of the COMELEC for the holding of elections. In case of
12 deficiency, any savings generated from the budget of the COMELEC may be
13 used to augment said appropriations. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed
14 for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General
15 Appropriations Act.

16 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act
17 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which
18 are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

19 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
20 orders, rules and regulations, other issuances and parts thereof which are
21 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
22 accordingly.

23 SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
24 days following its publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,