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**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ]  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ]  
First Regular Session ]**

'22 JUL 18 A10 :01

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY:

**S.B. No. 684**

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**Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**

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**AN ACT POSTPONING THE DECEMBER 5, 2022 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11462, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines had an annual budget deficit equivalent to 3.4 percent of GDP in 2019, and the fiscal gaps widened to 7.6 percent in 2020, and a record 8.6 percent in 2021. The previous administration's Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) had programmed to end 2022 with a P1.65-trillion budget deficit, equivalent to 7.7 percent of GDP. In terms of value, the projected deficit for this year will be slightly smaller than last year's biggest-ever amounting to P1.67 trillion, as the government continued to spend and borrow more to fight the health and socioeconomic crises inflicted by COVID-19.<sup>1</sup>

Given this continuing and current fiscal situation, the incoming administration must be provided with enough leeway to start things in a better light. Comelec Commissioner George Garcia related in a May 24, 2022 briefing that by June 2022, Comelec will start preparing for the barangay election. He also said that registration

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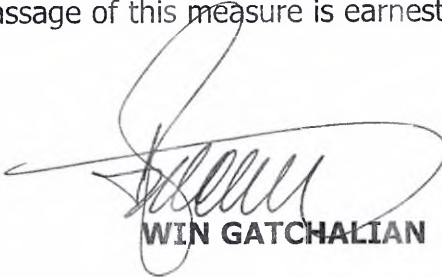
<sup>1</sup> Philippine Daily Inquirer, "PH budget deficit down to 6.4 from 8.6 percent of GDP," <https://business.inquirer.net/348088/ph-budget-deficit-down-to-6-4-from-8-6-percent-of-gdp#ixzz7XtL92Fck>

of voters will start in July 2022, and that COMELEC will moreover start looking for equipment that will be used, especially in ballot printing, as the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections are conducted manually. He further said that they have not received the budget for the December 2022 barangay and SK polls.<sup>2</sup>

As there is a need to conserve our already constrained financial resources, the postponement of the December 5, 2022 Barangay and SK elections for just a year, or to December 4, 2023, is a prudent exercise to keep afloat amidst our country's dire budgetary limitations.

Moreover, as we continue our recovery efforts from the Covid-19 pandemic, the resulting extended term of the current Barangay and SK officials will help the new administration in lessening disruptions that come with a change in administration at the barangay level, particularly in the seamless and efficient delivery of needed basic government services, since barangay officials serve as the national government's frontliners on this matter.

In view of the foregoing, the very urgent passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**WIN GATCHALIAN**

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<sup>2</sup>CNN Philippines, "Comelec: Barangay, SK elections to push through in December," <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/5/24/Barangay-SK-elections-to-push-through-December-2022.html>

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, is hereby  
2 further amended to read as follows:

3 "SECTION 1. *Date of Election.* - There shall be  
4 synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan  
5 elections, which shall be held on July 15, 2002.  
6 Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang  
7 kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of  
8 October 2007 and every three (3) years  
9 thereafter: *Provided*, That the barangay and  
10 sangguniang kabataan elections on [~~the second Monday~~  
11 ~~of May 2020 shall be postponed to~~] December 5, 2022  
12 **SHALL BE POSTPONED TO DECEMBER 4, 2023.**  
13 Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang  
14 kabataan elections shall be held on the first Monday of

1                   December 20~~[25]~~**26** and every three (3) years  
2                   thereafter."

3

4                   SEC 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, is hereby further  
5 amended to read as follows:

6

7                   "SEC 4. *Assumption of Office.* - The term of office of the  
8                   barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected  
9                   under this Act shall commence at noon of June 30 next  
10                  following their election: *Provided, however,* That the  
11                  term of office of the barangay and sangguniang  
12                  kabataan officials elected in the December ~~[5, 2022]~~ **4,**  
13                  **2023** elections and subsequently thereafter, shall  
14                  commence at noon of January 1 next following their  
15                  election."

16

17                  SEC 3. *Hold-Over.* - Until their successors shall have been duly elected  
18                  and qualified, all incumbent barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials shall  
19                  remain in office, unless sooner removed or suspended for  
20                  cause: *Provided,* That barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials who are *ex*  
21                  *officio* members of the sangguniang bayan, sangguniang panlungsod, or  
22                  sangguniang panlalawigan, as the case may be, shall continue to serve as such  
23                  members in the sanggunian concerned until the next barangay and  
24                  sangguniang kabataan elections.

25

26                  SEC 4. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation  
27                  of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the Commission on  
28                  Elections (COMELEC) under the General Appropriations Act and/or  
29                  supplementary appropriations thereafter.

30

31                  SEC 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, acts, presidential decrees,  
32                  executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations

1 or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provisions of  
2 this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

3

4           SEC 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is  
5 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not  
6 affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

7

8           SEC 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately following the  
9 completion of its publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2)  
10 newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*