



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**H. No. 7576**

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BY REPRESENTATIVES FERRER (J.M.), RODRIGUEZ (R.), TAN (K.M.), SUANSING (H.), SUANSING (M.A.), ORDANES, ONGCHUAN, ABALOS, DELOS SANTOS, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, ALVAREZ (P.), REVILLA (R.J.), MERCADO-REVILLA, REVILLA (B.), FARIÑAS, DALOG, CO (E.), MATUGAS, FLORES, CARDEMA, ARROGANCIA, BARZAGA, ARBISON, CO-PILAR, TANJUATCO, GUTIERREZ, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, ACIDRE, CASTRO (F.), KHO (O.), PANCHO, QUIMBO, MENDOZA, LIBANAN, ALBANO, GARIN, GONZALEZ, PALMA, TEVES (J.), ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), AQUINO, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CAJAYON-UY, CARI, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DEL MAR, DUJALI, FUENTEBELLA, LARA, LIMKAICHONG, LOYOLA, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, SINGSON (R.V.), TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, YAP (ERIC), YU (D.G.), ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ALMARIO, AMANTE, ANG, ATAYDE, BASCUG, BOSITA, BUSTOS, CHATTO, CHUNGALAO, CRUZ (A.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (S.A.), DIONISIO, DY (F.M.C.), EUDELA, FORTES, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (D.), GARDIOLA, GO (M.), GOLEZ, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MACEDA, MANGAOANG, MANQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.I.), OUANO-DIZON, PANALIGAN, PLAZA, PLEYTO, RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, SANTOS, TAN (J.), TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VARGAS, VERGARA, VERZOSA, YAP (C.), BULUT-BEGTANG, GASATAYA, GOMEZ, MARAÑON, ROMULO, SALO, TEVES (A.), VILLA, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), YULO, ZAMORA (Y.M.), ACHARON, RIVERA, ROMUALDO, VILLARICA, OAMINAL AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 437

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING BY QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS, PERSONS WITH**  
**DISABILITIES, LAWYERS, AND HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH 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 State to  
2     make voting convenient for senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs),  
3     lawyers, and human resources for health by giving them the option to vote earlier  
4     than the date set for the elections.

5  
6     **SEC. 2. Early Voting.** – In consideration of their respective physical and health  
7     conditions, senior citizens and PWDs shall be allowed to vote early in national and  
8     local elections. Similarly, in consideration of the necessity of providing professional  
9     services and ensuring the health and safety of the populace during election day,  
10    lawyers and human resources for health, respectively, shall be allowed to vote early  
11    in national and local elections.

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13         For the purposes of this Act, the term “human resources for health” shall refer to  
14    those who are engaged in health and health-related work, and all persons employed  
15    in all hospitals, sanitarium, health infirmaries, health centers, rural health units,  
16    barangay health stations, clinics and other health-related establishments owned and  
17    operated by the Government or its political subdivisions with original charters and  
18    shall include medical, allied health professional, administrative and support  
19    personnel employed regardless of their employment status who physically report to  
20    the frontlines during the day of the election.

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22     **SEC. 3. Registration.** – There shall be a nationwide registration for senior citizens,  
23     PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health to qualify them to avail of this early  
24     voting privilege. Those who are not registered under this Act shall vote on Election  
25     Day.

26  
27     **SEC. 4. Obligations of the Commission on Elections.** – To ensure the effective  
28     implementation of this Act, the Commission on Elections shall:

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30         (a) Keep a record of senior citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for  
31    health who are registered voters;

1 (b) Design a registration system, in coordination with local government units, the  
2 National Council on Disability Affairs, the Commission on Human Rights, the Office  
3 of the Bar Confidant of the Supreme Court, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the  
4 Department of Health, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government for  
5 senior citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health in order to facilitate  
6 their early voting;  
7

8 (c) Ensure that polling places are safe and accessible to senior citizens and PWDs,  
9 and properly fitted with the necessary communication, visual and physical aids, as  
10 mandated under Republic Act No. 10366 entitled, "An Act Authorizing the  
11 Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts Assigned to Accessible Polling  
12 Places Exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens"; and  
13

14 (d) Mount an intensive information campaign on early voting for qualified senior  
15 citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health.  
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17 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this  
18 Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the COMELEC.  
19 Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
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21 **SEC. 6. Applicability of Other Laws.** – The provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 or  
22 the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 7166, entitled, "An Act Providing for  
23 Synchronized National and Local Elections and for Electoral Reforms, Authorizing  
24 Appropriations Therefor, and for Other Purposes", and other election laws not  
25 inconsistent herewith shall be applied to facilitate early voting for qualified senior  
26 citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health.  
27

28 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from its  
29 effectivity, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations for the effective  
30 implementation of this Act.  
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32 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
33 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
34 remain in force and effect.  
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36 **SEC 9. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive  
37 orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof,  
38 which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby  
39 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.  
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41 **SEC. 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
42 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,