

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 3389**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Introduced by: REP. JOSE T. PANGANIBAN JR.**  
**of ANAC-IP Partylist**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise known as the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines, was enacted in 1985. Sections 100 and 101 of BP 881 provided the ceiling of authorized campaign expenses of candidates and political parties for the simple reason of levelling the playing field among all candidates. Under the said law, a candidate was allowed to spend for his election campaign an aggregate amount of not exceeding one peso and fifty centavos (Php.1.50) for every voter while the accredited political party was allowed to spend a similar amount for the election campaign for its candidates. However, six years later, or in 1991, the limitations imposed upon candidates and political parties were adjusted under Republic Act No. 7166, increasing the authorized campaign expenditure of candidates from P1.50 to P3.00 and of political parties from P1.50 to P5.00 for every voter.

However, due to unprecedented economic developments, the election expenses mandated by law became unrealistic. In fact no less than COMELEC Chairman Andres Bautista recently urged the members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives to increase the authorized campaign expenditures of candidates and political parties to a more realistic level.

This bill therefore seeks to increase the authorized campaign expenses with the utmost objective to adjust the mandated campaign expenditures of both candidates and political parties to a more realistic level in the light of economic developments.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. JOSE T. PANGANIBAN JR.**  
ANAC-IP Partylist

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 3380**

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**Introduced by: REP. JOSE T. PANGANIBAN JR.**  
**of ANAC-IP Partylist**

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**AN ACT INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT. NO 7166, ENTITLED, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:


**"Sec. 13. Authorized Expenses of Candidate and Political Parties.** – The [agreement] **aggregate** amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

1. For Candidates. – [Ten] **FIFTY** Pesos (P[1]**50.00**) for President and Vice-President; and for other candidates, [Three] **TWENTY FIVE** Pesos (P[3]**25.00**) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy; *Provided, That* [a] **an independent** candidate **who is** without any political party and without support from any political party may be allowed to spend [Five] **FIFTY** Pesos (P[5] **50.00**) for every such voter; [and]

An independent candidate is one who falls in any of the following circumstances:

- a. who has not been nominated by a duly registered political party or coalition of political parties or its duly authorized representative;
  - b. whose Certificate of Nomination and Acceptance (CONA) has been submitted by a political party or coalition of political parties not duly registered with the Commission on Elections;
  - c. who has not accepted a nomination, or has repudiated his CONA from a duly registered political party or coalition of political parties at any time before the date of the elections;
  - d. who accepts a nomination from more than one duly registered political parties for the same constituency, except in cases of coalitions of said political parties;
  - e. whose CONA was filed after the last day of filing of Certificates of Candidacy;
  - f. whose CONA was not filed together with his Certificate of Candidacy;
  - g. whose CONA was cancelled, revoked, withdrawn or substituted by the nominating party at any time before the date of the elections;
  - h. whose CONA was denied due course by the COMELEC.
2. For Political Parties – [Five] **TWENTY FIVE** Pesos (P[5]**25.00**) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates; **and**
  3. For Partylist Candidates – **TWENTY FIVE** Pesos (P**25.00**) for every voter.

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission shall not be subject to the payment of any gift tax.”



SECTION 2. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall immediately issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations found inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect Fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*

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