

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3411

Introduced by Honorable Peter "Sr. Pedro" M. Unabia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the authorized election campaign expenses of candidates and political parties by amending Section 13 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7166 entitled, *"An Act Providing for the Synchronized National and Local Elections and for Electoral Reforms, Authorizing Appropriations Therefor, And For Other Purposes."*


Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 otherwise known as the *"Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines,"* which was enacted in 1985, allows a candidate to spend for his election campaign an aggregate amount of not exceeding one peso and fifty centavos (P1.50) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy. The accredited political party, is also allowed to spend a similar amount for the election campaign of its candidates.

In 1991, RA 7166 was enacted which increased the authorized expenditures of candidates and political parties for every voter to P10.00 for President and Vice-President; P5.00 for political parties and independent candidates, and P3.00 for other candidates.

To this day, almost 25 years after RA 7166 took effect, the amounts limiting the expenses of candidates and political parties are still the same. The commissioners of the Commission on Elections are urging the members of Congress to pass a law that will increase the authorized election campaign expenditures of candidates and political parties to a more realistic level in the light of economic developments that have an erosive effect on the purchasing power of

the Philippine peso. This will save the candidates from facing election offense charges punishable with up to six years imprisonment and disqualification from holding public office. This will also encourage candidates to declare their true and actual election campaign expenses in their Statement of Contributions and Expenditures.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.



PETER "SR. PEDRO" M. UNABIA

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AN ACT

INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE 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 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 Candidates and Political Parties.* – The aggregate amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

(a) For candidates. – **[Ten pesos (P10.00)]** ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00) for President; **[and]** SEVENTY PESOS (P70.00) FOR Vice-President; SIXTY PESOS (P60.00) FOR SENATOR AND PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES; FIFTY PESOS (P50.00) FOR A MEMBER

1 OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTING A
2 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, GOVERNOR, MAYOR and [for] other
3 LOCAL candidate[s], [Three Pesos (P3.00)] for every voter currently
4 registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy:
5 *Provided, That[,] a candidate without any political party and without support*
6 *from any political party may be allowed to spend [Five Pesos (P5.00)]*
7 *THIRTY PESOS (P30.00) for every such voter; and*

8 (b) For political parties. – [Five pesos (P5.00)] FORTY PESOS
9 (P40.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or
10 constituencies where it has official candidates.

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

15 SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other
16 issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
17 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
19 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20 Approved,