

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
5524
House Bill No. _____



Introduced by: Representative MANUEL JOSE M. DALIPE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to vote is a vital component of democracy. To help protect this right, the Philippine Constitution mandated the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of elections, plebiscites, initiatives, referendum and recall.

Despite this gargantuan task, the foot soldiers of the poll body receive unreasonably low wages compared with their counterparts in other government agencies.

This situation caused the employees to organize the Comelec Employees' Union in 2012. For years, the Union has been asserting the employees' right to adequate remuneration that matches that of the standard in other government offices.

Thus, this bill seeks to address the concerns of COMELEC employees by reorganizing the COMELEC offices, and reclassifying and upgrading its plantilla positions.

In light of the circumstances, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Dalipe".

MANUEL JOSE M. DALIPE

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AN ACT
REORGANIZING THE COMELEC OFFICES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “An Act Reorganizing COMELEC Offices”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – In accordance with the equal protection clause of the Constitution, it is the State’s responsibility to provide adequate and appropriate remuneration to employees with the ultimate goal of achieving equal pay for equal work in government service.

SEC. 3. Field Offices. – The Commission shall have the following field offices:

1. Regional Election Office, headed by the Regional Election Director and assisted by the Assistant Regional Election Director, Regional Election Attorney with the rank of Attorney V, Human Resource Management Officer, Budget Officer, Finance Officer, Assistance Election Specialist, Stenographic Reporter III, Process Server, Watchman Office, Administrative Aide, ORED Driver, and any such other subordinate officers or employees necessary in the exigency of service for the said office;

2. Provincial Election Office, headed by the Provincial Election Director similar to the rank of Director II, regardless of the number of registered voters, Computer Maintenance, Technologist/Specialist (CMT/CMS) with SG-24, Assistant Election Specialist, Administrative Aide, OPES driver, and any such other subordinate officers or employees necessary in the exigency of service for the said office;

3. The National Capital Region shall be divided into five (5) administrative districts, such as North, South, East, Central, and Manila District, or such number of administrative district as may be determined by the Commission, which shall be headed and administratively supervised by a District Election Director with the rank of Director II, Computer Maintenance Technologist/Specialist (CMT/CMS), with SG-24, Administrative Assistant V, Administrative Aide, Driver, and any such

other subordinate officers or employees necessary in the exigency of service for the said office;

4. City/Municipal Office, headed by the City/Municipal Election Specialist with the rank of Director I, regardless of their place of assignment;

5. There shall be a minimum of two (2) Assistant Election Specialists (AES) with SG-21 in every city or municipality, provided, that for every additional 20,000 voters from 50,000 voters, additional AES shall be automatically appointed.

The Commission may delegate its powers and functions or order the implementation or enforcement of its orders, rulings, or decisions through the heads of its field offices.

SEC. 4. *Reclassification and Upgrading of Plantilla Positions in the COMELEC Main and Field Offices.* – All the remaining rank and file plantilla positions in the COMELEC main and field offices shall be reclassified and upgraded accordingly by the Commission on Elections.

SEC. 5. *Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Budget and the Commission on Elections shall adopt and issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations under the budget of the COMELEC. Thereafter, such sums, as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act, shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,