

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 69



Introduced by Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 9 AND SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8189
OR THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION ACT OF 1996**

Our Constitution and election laws provide a residency requirement of at least six months preceding the election. However, it seems that the people are making a mockery of this requirement as the COMELEC has no way of knowing whether the registrants are legitimate residents of the place where they propose to vote.

It is now a rampant practice in our country before the election period for people to register anew or transfer their registration to a new place even if they are unqualified in terms of residency requirements for voter's registration. They simply have to present their identification cards as proof of their identity just to qualify in their registration. This has been the one of the sources of flying voters in the country.

This bill seeks to amend Section 9 of Republic Act. No. 8189 or Voter's Registration Act of 1996 by requiring the presentation not only proof of identity but also proof of residence for the purpose of voter's registration to prevent the problem of perennial flying voters. This will strengthen and protect the sanctity of our right to suffrage and the integrity of our election system.

Furthermore, this bill seeks to amend Section 27 of the same Act by removing from the list the provision on disenfranchising registered voters who failed to vote in the two (2) succeeding regular elections.

The intention of the people who registered to vote is really to exercise their right to suffrage. Their failure to vote maybe unintentional on their part because of circumstances beyond their control. Consideration should be given to them especially since the right to suffrage is their political right conferred by our Constitution.

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

HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

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

SECTION 1. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 8189 or the Voters Registration Act of 1996 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 9. *Who may Register.* – All citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law who are at least eighteen (18) years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one (1) year, and in the place wherein they propose to vote, for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the election, may register as a voter. **PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO PERSON SHALL BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER WITHOUT PRESENTING ANY VALID PROOF OF RESIDENCE.**

AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM VALID PROOF OF RESIDENCE SHALL REFER TO:

- A. TAX DECLARATION OR RECEIPT OF PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX, OR A CERTIFICATION FROM THE LANDOWNER OR LESSOR OF RESIDENTIAL UNIT, APARTMENT, CONDOMINIUM, DORMITORY OR SIMILAR DWELLING UNITS WHERE HE/SHE IS RESIDING AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION;**
- B. A RECENT HOUSEHOLD UTILITY BILL UNDER HIS/HER NAME, WHICH INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, GAS, ELECTRIC, WATER, MOBILE OR TELEPHONE, CABLE, INTERNET OR CREDIT CARD BILL; AND**
- C. AFFIDAVIT OF AT LEAST TWO WITNESSES WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE PLACE WHERE HE/SHE PROPOSES TO VOTE, THAT HE/SHE IS A RESIDENT OF THE PLACE;**

XXX"

SECTION 2. Section 27 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 27. *Deactivation of Registration.* –

XXX

[d.) Any person who did not vote in the two (2) successive preceding regular elections as shown by their voting records. For this purpose, regular elections do not include the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections;]

XXX"

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.