

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **1917**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative Rosenda Ann Ocampo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7166, otherwise known as "*An Act Providing for Synchronized National and Local Elections and for Electoral Reforms, Authorizing Appropriations Therefor, and for Other Purposes*," which took effect in 1991, limits the campaign expenditure to P10.00 for President and Vice-President, P5.00 for political parties and independent candidates, and P3.00 for the other candidates.

For twenty five (25) years, the amounts limiting the expenses of candidates and political parties remained the same. Consequently, candidates had difficulty in trying to limit their spending in accordance with law because prices of materials and their printing and reproduction, mass media advertisements, transportation, and other operational expenses have noticeably increased in the past two and a half decades.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), there was a 259.5% increase in prices of commodities from 1991 to 2015. The cost of P1.00 in 1991 is now equivalent to P3.60. Also, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) projected that the P3.00 used for election-related spending in 1991 is equivalent to P9.10 in 2016.

These amounts show that the allowable limits for campaign spending are really outdated, most especially for local candidates who cannot take advantage of "economies of scale" in their purchase of materials, printing requirements, and even mass media placements.

A concrete proof that candidates are struggling to spend within the allowable amounts provided by law is the fact that last year, the Commission of Elections (COMELEC) is probing 1,400 cases of election campaign overspending in courts against thirty-six (36) local candidates.

In fact, COMELEC disqualified then Laguna Governor Emilio Ramon "E.R" Ejercito for incurring campaign expenses of more than P6 Million for television advertisements alone when he was allowed to spend the total amount of only around P4.5 Million due to the fact that the *Province of Laguna has a total of 1,525,522 registered voters.*

Therefore, the best way to address the concern of our candidates is to increase the amount of their allowable political campaign expenditures.

But the political parties should not be forgotten. Under existing law, they can spend P5.00 per voter in constituencies where they field their own candidates.

Hence, local candidates with political parties could tap and should be encouraged to tap the assistance of their political parties. Candidates should be aware of the importance of political parties.

This bill will also be beneficial to the voting public since the increase in the allowable campaign expenditure may lead to better voter's education and awareness of the background and platform of the candidates.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly requested.



ROSENDA ANN OCAMPO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

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HOUSE BILL No. 1917

Introduced by Representative Rosenda Ann Ocampo

AN ACT

INCREASING THE LIMIT FOR ALLOWABLE CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES OF ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS"

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

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

"SECTION 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:

For Candidates. - [Ten pesos (P10.00)] **TWENTY PESOS (P20.00)** For President; **FIFTEEN PESOS (P15.00)** FOR [and] Vice-President; [and for other Candidates, Three Pesos (P3.00)] **EIGHT PESOS (P8.00)** FOR SENATOR AND PARTY-LIST; FOR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTING A LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, GOVERNOR AND MAYOR, TEN PESOS (10.00); FOR VICE-GOVERNOR AND VICE-MAYOR, EIGHT PESOS (P8.00); FOR MEMBER OF SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN, SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD, AND SANGGUNIANG BAYAN, FIVE PESOS (P5.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy; For political parties- **TWENTY PESOS** [Five pesos (P5.00)] for every voter currently

registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates [.]; **AND FOR CANDIDATES WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM ANY POLITICAL PARTY - TEN PESOS (P10.00) FOR EVERY VOTER CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN THE CONSTITUENCY WHERE THE CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY IS FILED.**

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] **DONOR`S** tax”

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* Should any provision of this Act or part hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

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

SECTION 4. *Effectively Clause.* This act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.