

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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RECEIVED BY: *ji*

SENATE
SENATE BILL NO. 663

Introduced by Senator Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The electoral process is a vital pillar in a democratic institution like ours. The elections of barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials are as important as the elections of other local government officials and national officials. However, while Article X, Section 8 of the Constitution fixed the term of office of elective local officials, except barangay officials, to three (3) years which also determines the frequency of their elections, the term of office of barangay officials was left to be determined by law. This is in recognition of the innate nature of a barangay as the basic political unit and whose officials are considered apolitical in character.

The history of our barangay elections, with its current term of office of barangay officials of three (3) years, will show that it had gone through several postponements due to lack of funds. The budgetary requirement of three billion pesos (Php3,000,000,000.00) to finance the conduct of barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections every three years as mandated by existing law is so enormous to escape public scrutiny and consideration in the light of our budgetary constraints. This is also one of the main reasons why the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections were synchronized. While the right of suffrage is unquestionably paramount and constitutionally protected, the benefit of holding barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections every three (3) years rather than at a longer period is a pressing legitimate issue.

The proposed measure seeks to change the term of barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials from three (3) years to five (5) years not only to save money to fund other aspect of national development but more importantly, to give the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials a longer period to pursue their program of development uninterrupted by concerns for re-election.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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AN ACT CHANGING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS FROM THREE (3) YEARS TO FIVE (5) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 9340 AND REPUBLIC ACT 9164, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in congress assembled:

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as "Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Officials' Term of Office Act of 2012"

SECTION 2. **Term of Office** - The term of office of all barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials shall be five (5) years which shall commence at noon of November 30 next following their election. Pursuant thereto, the officials elected during the October 25, 2010 barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall serve until noon of November 30, 2015.

SECTION 3. **Date of Election** - There shall be synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections which shall be held on the last Monday of October 2015 and every five years thereafter.

SECTION 4. **Assumption of Office.** – The term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected under this Act shall commence at noon of November 30 next following their election.

SECTION 5. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from the appropriation of the Commission on Elections under the General Appropriations Act and/or supplementary appropriations thereafter.

SECTION 6. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Commission on Elections and the Department of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary within sixty (60) days after its effectivity to implement this Act.

SECTION 7. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain valid.

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

SECTION 9. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,