

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2864**



Introduced by **REP. EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.** Lone District of Marinduque

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 13 of RA 6646 of "The Electoral Reform Law of 1987" provides that the Board of Election Inspectors shall be composed entirely of public school teachers.

The law imposes a heavy duty on public school teachers to safeguard the sanctity of the ballot and help ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.

Because of this, many public school teachers go through many harrowing experiences during elections. Some are not paid on time their *per diem* by the Commission of Elections, if they are paid at all. Some even die in the line of duty. Worse, even after elections many teachers are charged with election offenses by losing candidates. Years of using the teachers for elections have made some of them vulnerable to threats, physical harm, and corruption.

Teachers are supposed to teach. This becomes more imperative in the light of their higher responsibilities under the Governance of Basic Education Act (RA 9155). For them to be able to concentrate on teaching, many of the non-teaching functions of public school teachers should be taken away from them, beginning with poll duties. The ranks of the public school teachers should be de-politicized.

The attached bill seeks to amend Section 13 by authorizing the Commission on Elections to designate citizens preferably coming from the civic, youth, professional, educational, business and labor sectors to sit in the BEI. The same guidelines shall be used in choosing the members of the Election Registration of Board Canvassers, and the canvassing committees. This way, all citizens regardless of their professions or calling shall share the equal burden of ensuring free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections. It also promotes volunteerism especially among the youth, which is one of the hallmarks of a republic and democracy such as ours.

The bill should go hand-in-hand with the full implementation of RA 8368, the Automated Election Law. If the latter law is carried out, the demand participation of public school teachers will surely be reduced.

To allow the teachers to fully concentrate on their teaching duties and thereby improve the quality of education in this country, immediate passage of this bill is recommended.


EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.
Representative
Lone District, Marinduque

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AN ACT TO HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY BY ALLOWING PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR TEACHING DUTIES. AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6646, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE ELECTION REFORM ACT OF 1987," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 13 of Republic Act No. 6646 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "SEC. 13. Board of Election Inspectors – The board of election inspectors to be
4 constituted by the Commission under Section 164 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 shall be
5 composed of a chairperson and two (2) members, one of whom shall be designated as
6 poll clerk, all of whom shall be **CITIZENS DULY DESIGNATED BY THE**
7 **COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE, PREFERRABLY COMING FROM THE**
8 **CIVIC, YOUTH, PROFESSIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, BUSINESS OR LABOR**
9 **SECTORS, OR ANY OTHER CITIZEN OF KNOWN PROBITY AND**
10 **COMPETENCE AND WHO ARE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY OR**
11 **MUNICIPALITY WHERE THEY WISH TO SERVE ON ELECTION DAY.**
12 [public school teachers, giving preference to those with permanent appointments. In case
13 there are not enough public school teachers, teachers in private schools, employees in the
14 civil service or other citizens of known probity and competence who are registered voters
15 of the city or municipality may be appointed for election duty.]"

16 **SECTION 2.** In all other electoral activities such as the registration of voters and the
17 canvassing of votes where the participation of public school teachers is required by law or
18 regulation, the Commission on Elections shall designate the members who will take the place of
19 public school teachers to comprise the Board of Election Inspectors, Election Registration Board,

1 the Board of Canvassers and canvassing committees, and other electoral bodies, following the
2 guidelines provided in Section 13 of Republic Act No. 6646, as amended by this Act.

3 **SECTION 3.** The Commission on Elections shall promulgate the rules and regulations
4 for the implementation of Section 12, Republic Act No. 6646, as amended by this Act. The
5 failure of the Commission to issue the rules prescribed shall not in any manner affect the self-
6 executory nature of this Act.

7 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of the Omnibus Election Code (BP Blg. 881), Republic Act
8 No. 6646, Republic Act No. 7166, Republic Act 8189, Republic Act No. 8436, and all other
9 laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or other issuances or any part thereof inconsistent
10 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

11 **SECTION 5.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

12 Approved.