

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. No. 2898



INTRODUCED BY HON. EDMUNDO O. REYES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

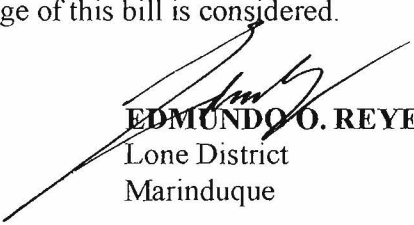
The present Election Code provides for the mandatory services of public school teachers in the various positions in the Board of Election Inspectors during national as well as local election exercises. The law primarily requires them to constitute the Board of Election Inspectors.

Experiences, however, would validate that this particular tradition has been endowed with massive skepticisms not only on the system and mechanics upon which the process of elections are being conducted. Because of this, the integrity and character of public school teachers, who are mentors and models of the young are questioned. More so often, they are arbitrarily accused of being either partisan or involved in fraudulent election schemes.

This proposed bill, therefore, seeks to remedy that growing negative impressions upon the public school teachers. This specifically proposes to free public school teachers from engaging into compulsory election duties as currently practice.

Recent electoral history proves the vital role of private sectors in the conduct of clean and honest elections. Various NGOs, POs and even churches of every denomination participate and get actively involved in ensuring the credibility of election activities. Tapping, among others, the voluntary participation through accreditation of volunteer groups and individuals, including those coming from the public and private schools, qualified students, members of the National Service Reserve Corps, and others, to serve in any electoral contest is an ideal innovation that will maximize community involvement, enhance people's social responsibility and, at the same time, excuse public school teachers from the bias scrutiny of the public.

It is earnestly sought that immediate passage of this bill is considered.


EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.
Lone District
Marinduque

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

2898

Introduced by Honorable EDMUND O. REYES, JR.

**AN ACT DISENGAGING PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM COMPULSORY
ELECTION DUTIES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC
ACT No. 6646, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE ELECTORAL REFORMS LAW OF 1987**

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

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

3
4 "Section 13. *Board of Election Inspectors* – The Board of Election
5 Inspectors to be constituted by the Commission under Section 164 of
6 Batas Pambansa Bilang 881 shall be composed of a chairman and two
7 (2) members, **ALL OF WHOM, EXCEPT THE CHAIRMAN WHO SHALL**
8 **BE A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE, SHALL BE VOLUNTEERS**
9 **ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION AND WHO ARE REGISTERED**
10 **VOTERS IN THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY WHERE THEY SHALL**
11 **SERVE ON ELECTION DAY. PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE**
12 **WILLING TO PERFORM ELECTION DUTIES SHALL BE GIVEN**
13 **PREFERENCE IN THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE**
14 **BOARD.**

15
16 **FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE COMMISSION SHALL INSTITUTE**
17 **AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM FOR ACCREDITATION OF**
18 **VOLUNTEERS INCLUDING PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, PRIVATE**
19 **SCHOOL TEACHERS, QUALIFIED STUDENTS FROM THE NATIONAL**
20 **SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL**

1 SERVICE RESERVE CORPS, MEMBERS OF THE ACCREDITED
2 CITIZENS ARMS OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC)
3 AND OTHER CITIZENS OF KNOWN PROBITY AND COMPETENCE.”
4

5 SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission on Elections
6 (COMELEC) shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the implementation of this
7 Act.
8

9 SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, decree, rules and regulations or any
10 other issuances or any provision thereof inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed or
11 modified accordingly.
12

13 SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in THE Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general publication.
15

16 *Approved,*