



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
House of Representative

Thirteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4216

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*Introduced by Hon. Robert B. Jaworski, Jr.*

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

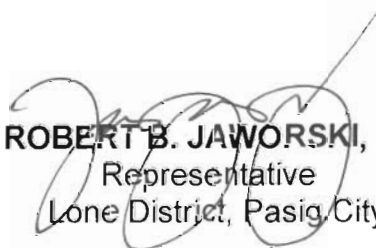
This bill seeks to amend Section 154, Article XIII of Batas Pambansa 881 otherwise known as the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines.

Article V, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution states that Congress shall provide a system for securing the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot as well as a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad.

The Congress shall also design a procedure for the disabled and the illiterates to vote without the assistance of other persons. Until then, they shall be allowed to vote under existing laws and such rules as the Commission on Elections may promulgate to protect the secrecy of the ballot.

It is the policy of the government to give any assistance to the disabled persons and senior citizens especially with regards to their right to vote.

In view of the foregoing and with our commitment to the Filipino citizenry, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**ROBERT B. JAWORSKI, JR.**  
Representative  
Lone District, Pasig City

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING SECTION 154, ARTICLE XIII OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881**  
**OTHERWISE KNOWN AS OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 154, Article XIII of Batas Pambansa 881 otherwise known as the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 154. Requirement of polling places.- Each polling place shall be, as far as practicable, a ground floor and shall be of sufficient size to admit and comfortably accommodate forty voters at one time outside the guard rail for the board of election inspectors. The polling place shall be located within the territory of the precinct as centrally as possible with respect to the residence of the voters therein and whenever possible, such location shall be along a public road. No designation of polling places shall be changed except upon written petition of the majority of the voters of the precinct or agreement of all the political parties or by resolution of the Commission upon prior notice and hearing. A public building having the requirements prescribed in the preceding paragraph shall be preferred as polling place AND FURTHER PROVIDE A SEPARATE VOTING PLACE WHICH WILL BE SITUATED IN THE GROUND FLOOR FOR THE DISABLED INDIVIDUALS AND SENIOR CITIZENS SO THAT THEY CAN EASILY CAST THEIR VOTES.

**SECTION. 2.** Any law, decree, executive order, administrative order, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified and amended accordingly.

**SECTION. 3.** Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect immediately upon .This Act will be effective immediately after publication in two (2) newspapers general circulation.

Approved.