

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 682

Submitted by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral
Reforms on 21 FEB 2011

Re : House Bill No. 4241

Recommending its Approval in substitution of House Bill
Nos. 1510 and 1960

Sponsors : Representatives Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr.,
Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro, Teodoro A. Casino, Neri Javier
Colmenares, Luzviminda C. Ilagan, Rafael V. Mariano, Raymond
V. Palatino, Emerenciana A. De Jesus and Antonio L. Tinio

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, to which was referred
House Bill No. 1510, introduced by the Hon. Marcelino "Marcy" R.
Teodoro, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA"**

and House Bill No. 1960, introduced by the Hons. Teodoro A. Casino, Neri
Javier Colmenares, Luzviminda C. Ilagan, Rafael V. Mariano, Raymond
V. Palatino, Emerenciana A. De Jesus and Antonio L. Tinio, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA"**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill
No. 4241, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA"**

be approved in substitution of House Bill Nos. 1510 and 1960 with Reps. Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro, Teodoro A. Casino, Neri Javier Colmenares, Luzviminda C. Ilagan, Rafael V. Mariano, Raymond V. Palatino, Emerenciana A. De Jesus and Antonio L. Tinio as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:



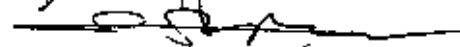
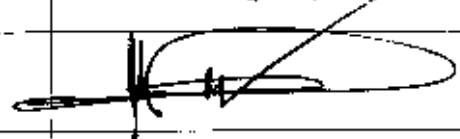
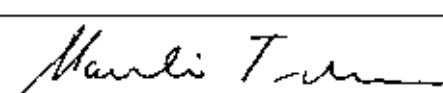
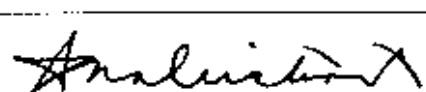
HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.
Chairman
Committee on Suffrage and
Electoral Reforms

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS, ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4241, ENTITLED,

"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA"

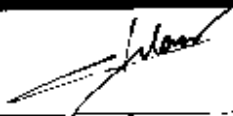
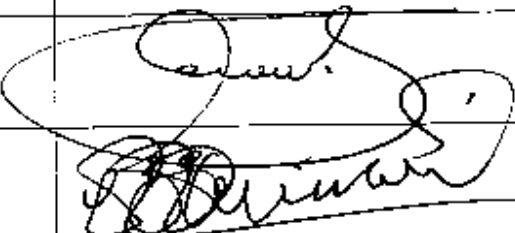
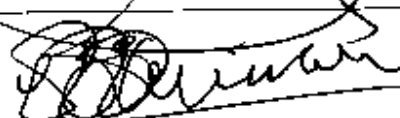
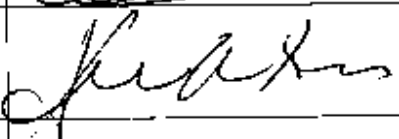
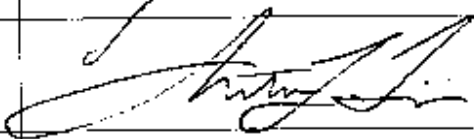
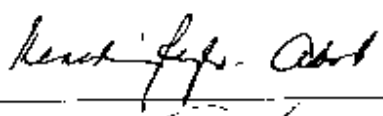
FOR THE MAJORITY:

NO.	NAME OF MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	HON. SALVACION, ANDRES, JR. D.	
2.	HON. ORTEGA, FRANCISCO EMMANUEL R.	
3.	HON. FERRER, ANTONIO A.	
4.	HON. COLMENARES, NERI J.	
5.	HON. AMANTE-MATBA, MA. ANGELICA M.	
6.	HON. TEODORO, MARCELINO R.	
7.	HON. AGGABAO, GIORGIDI B.	
8.	HON. GATCHALIAN, REXLON T.	
9.	HON. GO, ANA CRISTINA S.	
10.	HON. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, MARLYN L.	

THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS, ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4241, ENTITLED,

"AN ACT
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TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA"

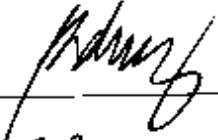
FOR THE MAJORITY:

NO.	NAME OF MEMBER	SIGNATURE
11.	HON. VELASCO, LORD ALLAN Q.	
12.	HON. NOGRALES, KARLO ALEXEI B.	
13.	HON. DEFENSOR, ARTHUR, JR. R.	
14.	HON. MARCOLETA, RODANTE D.	
15.	HON. ROMUALDO, PEDRO P.	
16.	HON. . DIAZ, ANTONIO M.	
17.	HON. . BELLO, WALDEN F.	
18.	HON. LOPEZ, CAROL JAYNE B.	
19.	HON. . TINIO, DANTE ANTONIO L.	
20.	HON. GOLEZ, ROILO S.	
21.	HON. ABAD, HENEDINA R.	
22.	HON. APOSTOL, SERGIO AF	

THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
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"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA"

FOR THE MAJORITY:

NO	NAME OF MEMBERS	SIGNATURE
23.	HON. COSALAN, RONALD H.	
24.	HON. RODRIGUEZ, RUFUS B.	
25.	HON. MALIKSI, ERINEO S.	
26.	HON. UMALI, REYNALDO V.	
27.	HON. GULLAS, EDUARDO R.	
28.	HON. EMANO, YEVGENY VICENTE B.	

THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS, ON HOUSE BILL NO. ~~4241~~, ENTITLED,

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA”

FOR THE MINORITY:

NO	NAME OF MEMBERS	SIGNATURE
29.	HON. DATUMANONG, SIMEON A.	
30.	HON. ORTEGA, VICTOR F.	
31.	HON. FUA, ORLANDO B.	
32.	HON. AUMENTADO, ERICO B.	

THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS, ON HOUSE BILL NO. ~~4241~~ ENTITLED,

"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA"

FOR THE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

NO	NAME OF MEMBERS	SIGNATURE
1.	HON. FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR. Speaker	
2.	HON. RAUL A. DAZA Deputy Speaker	
3.	HON. LORENZO R. TANADA III Deputy Speaker	
4.	HON. PABLO P. GARCIA Deputy Speaker	
5.	HON. ANTONIO A. DEL ROSARIO deputized by ARNULFO P. FUENTEBELLA Deputy Speaker	
6.	HON. JESUS CRISPIN C. REMULLA Deputy Speaker	
7.	HON. IRVIN M. ALCALA deputized by MARIA ISABELLE G. CLIMACO Deputy Speaker	
8.	HON. NEPTALI M. GONZALES II Majority Leader	
9.	HON. JANETTE L. GARIN Deputy Majority Leader	
10.	HON. ROMAN T. ROMULO Deputy Majority Leader	

THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS, ON HOUSE BILL NO. ~~4241~~, ENTITLED,

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA”

FOR THE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

NO	NAME OF MEMBERS	SIGNATURE
11.	HON. RODOLFO C. FARINAS Deputy Majority Leader	
12.	HON. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY, Deputy Majority Leader	
13.	HON. MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO I, Deputy Majority Leader	
14.	HON. DAISY A. FUENTES Deputy Majority Leader	
15.	HON. JORGE JOHN B. BANAL, JR. Deputy Majority Leader	
16.	HON. ROMERO FEDERICO S. QUIMBO Deputy Majority Leader	
17.	HON. EDCEL C. LAGMAN Minority Leader	
18.	HON. DANILO E. SUAREZ Deputy Minority Leader	
19.	HON. AUGUSTO L. SYJUCO, JR. Deputy Minority Leader	
20.	HON. CARLOS M. PADILLA Deputy Minority Leader	

THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS, ON HOUSE BILL NO. ~~4241~~, ENTITLED,

"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING
TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA"

FOR THE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

NO	NAME OF MEMBERS	SIGNATURE
21.	HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ deputized by HON. MA. AMELITA C. VILLAROSA Deputy Minority Leader	
22.	HON. MARC DOUGLAS C. CAGAS IV Deputy Minority Leader	
23.	HON. FLORENCIO G. NOEL Chairperson Committee on Accounts	

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by the Honorable Representatives
Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro, Teodoro A. Casino, Neri Javier Colmenares,
Luzviminda C. Ilagan, Rafael V. Mariano, Raymond V. Palatino, Emerenciana
A. De Jesus and Antonio L. Tinio

4241
House Bill No. _____
(in substitution of House Bill Nos. 1510 and 1960)

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

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

1 **Section 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Early Voting for Media Act of
2 2011."

3
4
5 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** - All Filipino citizens at least eighteen years
6 old, unless disqualified by law, are accorded the right of suffrage. The State ensures
7 equal opportunity to all in order to exercise this fundamental right. This includes special
8 cases wherein citizens, carrying out public service, cannot cast their votes on Election
9 Day.

10
11
12 **Section 3. Coverage.** - Any registered voter who, by reason of his / her duties
13 as member of the media, who cannot cast his / her vote on election day may vote in his
14 / her municipality or city prior to the date set for the elections.
15

1 **Section 4. Requirements.** - Thirty (30) days before the election, officers of
2 media establishments shall submit to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) a list of
3 members of their media staff who will be assigned away from their polling place and will
4 not be able to vote on day of the election but desire to exercise their right to vote. Upon
5 verification by the COMELEC, the media practitioners, all of which must be registered
6 voters, must fill up an application form for early voting.

7
8
9 **Section 5. Voting Procedures.** - Those qualified to vote may cast his / her
10 ballot in the Office of the Municipal / City Election Registrar where he / she is registered
11 during office hours within fourteen (14) working days before the day of elections. He /
12 she will be allowed to vote for as many positions available, as any other qualified voter.

13
14
15 **Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The COMELEC shall
16 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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19 **Section 7. Appropriations.** - The budget needed to implement provisions of
20 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

21
22
23 **Section 8. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision of this Act be declared
24 invalid or unconstitutional, the validity or constitutionality of the other provisions shall not
25 be affected thereby.

26
27
28 **Section 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, letter of instructions,
29 resolutions, orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
30 provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

31
32
33 **Section 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
34 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

35
36
37 *Approved,*

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1510

INTRODUCED BY HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

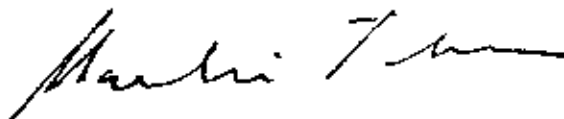
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every time our country conducts an election, many media people would complain about the difficulty of exercising their right of suffrage. Most of them eventually became disenfranchised because mediemen are usually assigned to a place/location different from the precinct where they registered.

Hence, this bill provides for early voting to qualified members of the media particularly those who will be deployed to cover the conduct of elections in different parts of the country on election day. This is giving recognition to the fact that their official assignment for the purpose of broadcasting and reportage ensures transparency, integrity and accountability among all political participants which ultimately protects the sanctity of the ballot.

The proposal includes mandating heads of media outfits to submit to the COMELEC the names of their respective qualified media members who wish to avail of the early voting at least thirty (30) days before the election. Further, it allows qualified members of the media to vote during office hours within seven (7) working days before the election day in the Office of the Municipal / City Election Registrar where they are registered.

Given what the proposal would eventually achieve, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO
Representative, 1st District
City of Marikina

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1510

INTRODUCED BY HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – Elections shall be free and equal. The State shall ensure the exercise of the right of suffrage by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law.

SEC. 2. *Who are Qualified to Vote.* – Any person, by reason of his/her functions and duties as a member of the media, who is not able to cast his/her vote on election day.

SEC. 3. *How to Apply for Early Voting.* – Thirty (30) days before the election, the appropriate head of office shall submit to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) a list of members of media who are registered voters and, by reason of their duties and functions, will not be able to vote on election day but desire to exercise their right to vote by filling up an application form for early voting.

Upon verification by the COMELEC that the persons included in the list are qualified voters, it shall transmit the exact number of application forms to the head of office making the request.

SEC. 4. *Who to Vote for, When and Where.* – A member of the media qualified to vote early may cast his/her ballot in the Office of the Municipal/City Election Registrar where he/she is registered during office hours within seven (7) working days before the day of elections. He/She may vote for as many positions available to be voted on as any other qualified voter casting his/her ballot on election day proper.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The COMELEC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed to initially implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations of the COMELEC for the holding of elections. In case of deficiency, any savings generated from the budget of the COMELEC may be used to augment said appropriations. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1090

Introduced by Reps. TEODORO A. CASIÑO, NERI JAVIER COLMENARES,
LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN, RAFAEL V. MARIANO, RAYMOND V. PALATINO
EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS, and ANTONIO L. TINIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The necessity of a free press in a striving democracy like the Philippines has been clearly demonstrated over the years. Besides delivering up-to-date and informative news every day, the press has been pivotal in exposing corruption, human rights violations and other injustices. During critical times of the elections, media practitioners serve as both watchdogs and help desks, revealing images of election fraud and bribery, facilitating reports of violence and inefficiency.

However, it is their own public service that hinders them from exercising their right to vote. Often, these media practitioners are stationed in different parts of the country to closely monitor election events. More often than not, they do not have enough time and capacity to travel to their own polling precincts and vote.

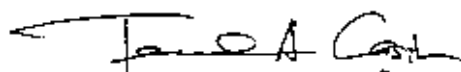
All citizens above 18 years old, unless disqualified by law, are accorded the right of suffrage. In the past and up to the present, special provisions have been arranged to grant early and absentee voting for our overseas workers, military and police personnel who are assigned to perform duties on Election Day. It is only fair to extend the opportunity to members of the media.

This bill seeks to grant media practitioners assigned in areas other than their polling places the right to participate in the elections through early voting.

Last 14th Congress, both the House of Representatives and the Senate approved separate bills calling for advance voting in certain areas and of certain sectors, including the media, detainees and uniformed personnel. Congress, however, failed to pass a reconciled version of House Bill 6928 and Senate Bill 3570. It is hoped that this measure will be given priority under the new Congress.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval thereof is sought.

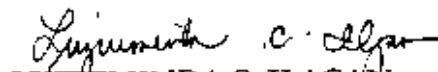
Approved.



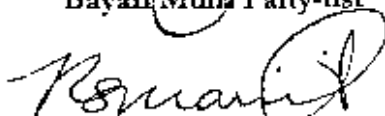
TEODORO A. CASINO
Bayan Muna Party-list



NERI JAVIER COLMENARES
Bayan Muna Party-list



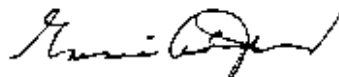
LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN
Gabriela Women's Party



RAFAEL V. MARIANO
Anakpawis Party-list



RAYMOND V. PALATINO
Kabataan Party-list



EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS
Gabriela Women's Party



ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1000

Introduced by Reps. TEODORO A. CASIÑO, NERI JAVIER COLMENARES,
LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN, RAFAEL V. MARIANO, RAYMOND V. PALATINO
EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS, and ANTONIO L. TINIO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Early Voting for Media Act of 2010.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – All Filipino citizens at least eighteen years old, unless disqualified by law, are accorded the right of suffrage. The State ensures equal opportunity to all in order to exercise this fundamental right. This includes special cases wherein citizens, carrying out public service, cannot cast their votes on election day.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* – Any registered voter, by reason of his/her duties as member of the media, who cannot cast his/her vote on election day may vote in his/her municipality or city in advance.

SECTION 4. *Requirements.* – Thirty days before the election, officers of media establishments shall submit to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) a list of members of their media staff who will be assigned away from their polling place and will not be able to vote on Election Day but desire to exercise their right to vote. Upon verification by the COMELEC, the media practitioners, all of which must be registered voters, must fill up an application form for early voting.

SECTION 5. *Voting procedures.* – Those qualified to vote early may cast his/her ballot in the Office of the Municipal/City Election Registrar where he/she is registered during office hours within fourteen (14) working days before the day of elections. He/she will be allowed to vote for as many positions available, as any other qualified voter.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The COMELEC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The budget needed to implement provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Constitutionality.* – Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity or constitutionality of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, letters of instructions, resolutions, orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

15th Congress

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

November 23, 2010, Tuesday, 1:30 PM
Conference Rooms 1 & 2, RVM Bldg.,
House of Representatives, Batasan Complex

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order 2:05 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Upon the duly seconded motion of Rep. Fua, the calling of the roll was dispensed with.

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2010 MEETING

Upon the duly seconded motion of Rep. Fua, the minutes of the November 17, 2010 were approved. The reading of the same was dispensed with.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS, GUESTS AND RESOURCE PERSONS

The Chair acknowledged the members of the committee in attendance. Representatives from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) were likewise present.

V. MEETING PROPER

a) ON EARLY VOTING

- For qualified members of the media
 - (i) HB 1510 by Rep. Teodoro and
 - (ii) HB 1960 by Reps. Casiño, Colmenares, Ilagan, Mariano, Palatino, De Jesus and Tinio
- For national and local elections
 - (i) HB 2722 by Reps. (R) Rodriguez and (M) Rodriguez

COMELEC Director Pizana informed the body that the early voting bills are doable. She explained the process of local absentee voting identifying all the steps involved. This privilege, she said, is extended to members of the Special Board of Election Inspectors, AFP, PNP, district supervisors, COMELEC, DFA and other officials that are assigned in different parts of the country during election day. "But it will be easier to implement if they will vote only for national positions," she added.

At this point, Vice-Chairman Colmenares presided over the meeting.

Director Rafanan commented on the early voting for qualified members of the media. He stated that, "The easiest way to accomplish this is to insert in the existing EO for local absentee voting the word "media" in the categories that enjoy the privilege." He proposes further that the term "local absentee voting" be amended to "domestic absentee voting" to differentiate it from "overseas absentee voting." "The word "local" is misconstrued as not including national positions for voting," he explained.

Presiding Officer Colmenares gave a summary of Director Pizana's pronouncements. He stated that the Executive Order governing local absentee voting excludes local positions. "It would be better if they can vote for local positions," he furthered. He likewise expressed his apprehensions on how to go about early voting or local absentee voting for media as they come from private entities. Director Rafanan sees no problem in implementing the law even if media practitioners do not come from the government.

The Presiding Officer emphasized on the point that even if it is easier on the part of the COMELEC to exclude local positions in local absentee voting, it will be better that those who have the privilege will be able to vote for all positions as they, in the first place, will vote in their respective places of registration. Director Rafanan said that the suggestion is very feasible.

Rep. Fua stated that it may fall under class legislation if the members of the media will be allowed to vote for local positions and the others who enjoy local absentee voting privileges cannot.

Director Rafanan answered that everyone who enjoys the said privilege, not only the members of the media, shall be allowed to vote for local positions.

Director Rafanan put his opinion forward on the overseas absentee voting law being more effective if it operates on proxy voting. Presiding Officer Colmenares reacted that the director's pronouncements are not supposed to be a part of the discussions. "A meeting on the OAV will be scheduled very soon; maybe those points could be integrated there," the Presiding Officer added.

At this point, Rep. Rodriguez emphasized on the need to institutionalize early voting in the country citing long lines, low voter turn-out and the discomfort in voting as reasons. He informed the body that the biggest states in the US practice early voting. He then moved for the approval of his bill.

Director Rafanan gave his comments. He is apprehensive that the long lines on election day will transfer to the lines or queues in early voting unless the privilege is extended only to those who really need it.

Rep. Fua stated that he was able to observe firsthand the elections in California. "It is as if there is no election going on, how can we do it like that," he asked.

Dr. Serrano of PPCRV is concerned on trending, cheating tactics and security risks that early voting may unintentionally encourage. "A select group is more manageable than the general public," he stated.

Presiding Officer Colmenares then said that, "This will be more work for COMELEC, yes. But this is strengthening the exercise of the right to suffrage."

Rep. Rodriguez' motion to approve early voting for national and local elections was carried. House Bill No. 2272 is approved subject to amendments. He then moved for the approval of the two bills on early voting for qualified members of the media subject to substitution. The same was likewise carried and House Bill Nos. 1510 and 1960 were approved.

b) ON STIFFER PENALTIES ON ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE

- (i) HB 584 by Reps. (R) Rodriguez and (M) Rodriguez

At this point, Chairman Barzaga presides.

Rep. Rodriguez stated that he filed House Bill No. 2514 in the 14th Congress and was transmitted to the Senate but it did not act on it. For the present 15th Congress, he re-filed the same bill on stiffer penalties on election-related violence. House Bill No. 584 seeks to impose harsher penalties on violence connected to elections. He then moved for its approval.

Before acting on the motion, the Chair gave the opportunity for the invited resource persons to make their positions on the matter manifest.

The representatives of the PNP and AFP fully support the imposition of harsher penalties on election-related violence to deter future offenders.

Atty. Cuevas of the DOJ informed the body that insofar as preliminary investigations on election-related case are concerned, they are exclusively lodged with the COMELEC.

Director Rafanan reacted by saying that jurisdiction is now concurrent with COMELEC and the DOJ. "RA 9369 Section 43 amends Section 265 of the Omnibus Election Code.

The Chair directed Atty. Cuevas to submit a position paper on the matter.

Rep. Rodriguez' motion to approve his bill on stiffer penalties on election-related violence is carried. House Bill No. 584 was approved without amendments.

c) ON STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM

- (i) HB 49 by Reps. (R) Rodriguez and (M) Rodriguez
(ii) HB 403 by Rep. Angara

For lack of time, the discussions on the bills on strengthening the political party system were deferred for the next meeting.

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 4241
(in substitution of House Bill Nos. 1510 and 1960)

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

Introduced by the Honorable Representatives:

**MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO, TEODORO A. CASIÑO, NERI JAVIER
COLMENARES, LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN, RAFAEL V. MARIANO, RAYMOND V.
PALATINO, EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS and ANTONIO L. TINIO**

*Committee Referral: Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms
Committee Chairperson: HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.*

OBJECTIVES:

- This bill seeks to grant media practitioners assigned in areas other than their polling places the opportunity to participate in the elections through early voting.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- A qualified member of the media who cannot cast his vote on Election Day may do so in his municipality/city in advance.
- Thirty (30) days before the election, officers of media establishments shall submit to the Commission on Elections a list of members of their media staff who will be assigned away from their polling place and will not be able to vote on Election Day but desire to exercise their right to vote. Upon verification by the COMELEC, the media practitioners, all of which must be registered voters, must fill up an application form for early voting.
- Qualified members of the media may vote during office hours within fourteen (14) working days before the day of the elections in the Office of the Municipal/City Election Registrar where they are registered.
- Funds needed to implement provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

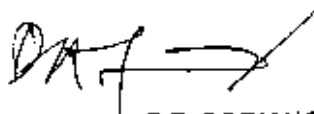
The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Prepared by:



CARLA MAY F. BAUTISTA
SLSO-II

Certified correct by:



DEBBIE ANNE F. SORIANO-GARCIA
Committee Secretary

Approved by:

ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.
Chairman



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

HON. JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA

*Congressman, 1st District, Cavite
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations*

February 8, 2011

HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR

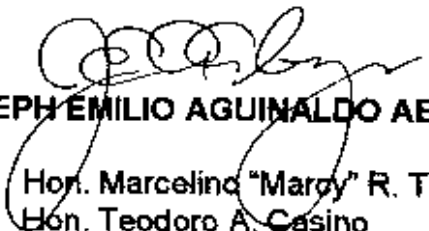
Chairman
Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms

Dear Chairman Barzaga:

Please be informed that the Committee on Appropriations in its meeting held today at Conference Rooms 7 and 8, Ramon V. Mitra Building, approved to report out the following bills without amendment:

- 1) **Substitute Bill to House Bill Nos. 1510 and 1960, entitled "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING TO QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA" and**
- 2) **House Bill No. 2722, as amended, entitled "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS."**

Very truly yours,


JOSEPH EMILIO AGUINALDO ABAYA *EA*

cc: Hon. Marcelino "Mardy" R. Teodoro
Hon. Teodoro A. Casino
Hon. Neri Javier Colmenares
Hon. Luzviminda C. Ilagan
Hon. Rafael V. Mariano
Hon. Raymond V. Palatino
Hon. Emerenciana A. De Jesus
Hon. Antonio L. Tinio
Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez
Hon. Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

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