

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4991

Introduced by **ATTY. MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO I**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The main thrust of this bill is to change the term of barangay officials (*punong barangay and kagawads*) from three (3) to five (5) years, amending for the purpose Republic Acts 9164 and 9340, and for other purposes, in a bid to address the issue of savings, effective governance and implementation of long-term projects nationwide.

Barangay elections entail huge expenses for the government, especially the Commission on Elections. Likewise, the candidates also expend considerable amount to ensure their victory in the polls. Having electoral exercises every three (3) years is going to be a drain on money which maybe better spent on other worthwhile activities. In October 2010, in electing the 294,175 barangay officials for the 42,025 barangays across the archipelago, the COMELEC needed at least 3.2 billion pesos from the government coffers to stage the political exercise. In 2007 barangay elections, the government spent at least 2 billion pesos. If we can decrease the frequency of barangay elections, the government could save enough money to pay its burgeoning budget deficit and use the other funds for primary concerns like construction of classrooms, repair of roads, health services and housing programs.

This proposed measure likewise minimizes the intense rivalries, enmities and conflicts engendered by barangay contests even among close relatives. According to the report of the Philippine National Police, violence is high during barangay contests as it recorded various cases pertaining to the 2010 barangay elections.

Also; considering that the set of barangay officials constitutes the pool from which city and municipal officials often come, there is merit for a longer period of five (5) years to afford barangay officials adequate training and experience in local governance. The extension would also give officials time to show more what they've got. Three (3) years is not enough to implement their long-term projects and it interrupts their delivery of basic services in the most basic level of governance.

Some would say that what if the barangay official is remiss of his duties and responsibilities? Many observers howl that 5 years is too long to wait before he can be changed or removed. No, because the Local Government Code expressly provides for a mechanism of Recall for his removal and the Graft and Corrupt Practices Act does not allow sacred cows.

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) is not included here in view of our HB 2534 seeking for its abolition. The proposed measure is now gaining ground in Congress as the League of Provinces of the Philippines through its Resolution No. 2010-005 urges Congress to abolish the SK.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
CHANGING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS FROM
THREE (3) 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 the House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “*Barangay Officials Term Extension Act of 2011*”.

Section 2. Section 1 of Republic Act 9340 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 1. Date of Election. - *There shall be a xxx barangay xxx elections which shall be held on the last Monday of October 2010 and EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS THEREAFTER.”*

Section 3. Section 2 of Republic Act 9340 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 2. Assumption of Office. - *The term of office of the barangay xxx officials elected under this Act shall commence at noon of November 30 next following their election.*”

Section 4. 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 therefater.

Section 5. 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 6. Separability Clause. – If any of the provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain valid.

Section 7. 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 8. Effectivity. – 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,