

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 654



Introduced by **HON. MA. VICTORIA R. SY-ALVARADO**

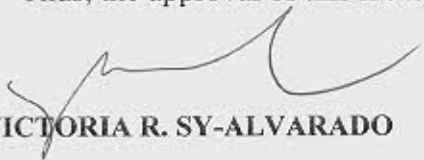
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The exercise of the right of suffrage of our people is the highest point of our democracy. It is through their sovereign voice that our government is made accountable to the people and our republican state renews its mandate.

It is therefore of great importance that we maintain the integrity and fidelity of the electoral process to ensure that political will of the people will never be compromised by malevolent forces seeking to undermine the institution and process of our elected government.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a system of reporting between local civil registrars and the Commission on Elections. Such measure is sought as a preventive measure against acts leading to election fraud. As elected officials ourselves, we all understand the value and essence of the sovereign will of the people. As duly elected members of Congress, we are duty bound to this expression of the people's grant of power. We lead not blinded by fraudulent manipulation of our people through the short-circuiting of the electoral process.

Thus, the approval of this measure is very much advocated and sought.


MA. VICTORIA R. SY-ALVARADO

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A REPORTING PROCESS AND PROCEDURE
BETWEEN THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRARS AND THE COMMISSION ON
ELECTIONS ON THE DEATH OF PERSONS, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 3753, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

Section 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 3753, entitled "Law on Registry of Civil Status," is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 6. Death certificate and register. – No human body shall be buried unless the proper death certificate has been presented and recorded in the office of the local civil registrar. *Such recording in the office of the local civil registrar shall only be deemed final and complete upon submission to the appropriate office in the Commission on Elections a copy of the deceased's death certificate and such proofs showing the fact of such recording.* The physician who attended the deceased or, in his default the health officer concerned, or in default of the latter, any member of the family of the deceased or any person having knowledge of the death, shall report the same to the local health authorities, who shall issue a death certificate and shall order the same to be recorded in the office of the local civil registrar. The death certificate, which shall be issued by the attending physician of the deceased or, in his default, by the proper health officer, shall contain the following data to be furnished by the person reporting the death:

- (a) Date and place of death;
- (b) Full name;
- (c) Age;
- (d) Sex;
- (e) Occupation or profession;
- (f) Residence;
- (g) Status as regards marriage;

(h) Nationality of the deceased; and

(i) Probable cause of death.

During epidemics, bodies may be buried provided the proper death certificates have been secured, which shall be registered not later than five days after the burial of the body.

Sec. 2. Section 12 of the same Republic Act is amended to read as follows:

Section 12. Duties of local civil registrar. – the local civil registrar shall:

x x x

(h) To report to the appropriate office in the Commission on Elections the fact of death of every person, as provided in Section 6 of this Act

Sec. 3. The Comelec Chairman or such official of Comelec as he may designate shall be responsible to receive the reports of death and accordingly update the official list of voters. Furthermore, the Comelec shall issue the appropriate rules and procedure of the reporting envisioned in this act.

Sec. 4. The Civil Registrar General of the Philippines and the Local Civil Registrars shall comply with the rules and procedure promulgated by the Comelec, pursuant to Section 3 of this Act..

Sec. 5. **Penal Provision** – Any government official or employee who fails to perform his duties as prescribed by this Act and the appropriate rules and procedure promulgated by the Comelec shall be guilty of committing *Corrupt Practices of Public Officers* and shall be punished with imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than ten years and perpetual disqualification from public office.

Sec. 6. **Effectivity** – This Act shall take effect fifteen days following the completion of their publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation..

Approved,



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