

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2362**



Introduced by Representative Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

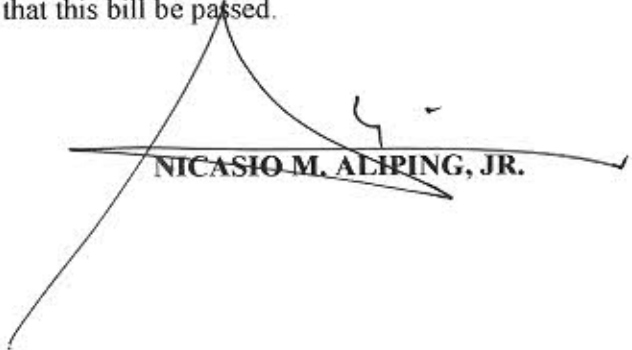
This bill seeks to increase the authorized expenses of candidates and political parties for campaign purposes to realistic price levels.

Sections 100 and 101 of the Omnibus Election Code (BP Blg. 881) set the limit upon expenses of candidates and political parties at P1.50 for every currently registered voter. That was in 1985. The limit was raised in 1991 under RA No. 7166 to P10.00 for President and Vice-President, P5.00 for political parties and independent candidates, and P3.00 for other candidates. It remained unchanged until the 2013 elections.

Candidates carry out campaigns with both personal funds and campaign contributions. With the limit on campaign expenditures pegged at prices 12 years ago, most candidates presently are constrained to understate expenses in their statements of election contributions and expenditures to comply with the reportorial requirements.

The understatement affects revenues. The effect is apparent once the sworn SECEs submitted to the COMELEC are furnished to the BIR. The excess campaign contributions, if any, may be treated as taxable income of the candidate under Revenue Regulations No. 7-2011. But the income taxes that might be collected from unutilized contributions are much less compared to what could be realized if actual expenses at prevailing prices are reported and taxes therefrom are withheld and remitted under the Expanded Withholding Tax Law.

It is therefore intently requested that this bill be passed.


NICASIO M. ALIPING, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2362

Introduced by Representative Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr.

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166 BY
INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES
AND POLITICAL PARTIES DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

“Section 13. *Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties.* – The aggregate amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

- (a) For candidates. – **Thirty Pesos (P30.00)** for President, [and] Vice-President, **and Senator; Twenty Pesos (P20.00) for Member of the House of Representatives, Regional and Provincial Governor and Vice-Governor, and City and Municipal Mayor and Vice-Mayor;** and for other candidates **Ten Pesos (P10.00)** for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy: *Provided,* That a candidate without any political party and without support from any political party may be allowed to spend **Twenty Pesos (P20.00)** for every such voter; and

(b) For political parties **and party-list groups**. – **Twenty Pesos (P20.00)** for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.”

SEC. 2. *Separability Clause*. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,