



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

Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6055



Introduced by : **Cong. George P. Arnaiz**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 otherwise known as the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines explicitly limited the expenses of candidates and political parties to level the playing field between the poor and moneyed candidates. Under the said law which was enacted in 1985, a candidate was allowed to spend for his election campaign an aggregate amount of not exceeding one peso and fifty centavos for every voter while the accredited political party was also allowed to spend a similar amount for the election campaign of its candidates.

However, six years later or in 1991, the limitations upon expenses of candidates and political parties were adjusted under Republic Act No. 7166 thereby explicitly amending Sections 100 and 101 of the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines that effectively increased the authorized campaign expenditure of candidates for every voter from P1.50 to P3.00 and of political parties for every voter from P1.50 to P5.00.

It is worthy to mention that the latest adjustment of election campaign expenditures was in 1991, by virtue of Republic Act No. 7166, to more than double six (6) years after its effectivity in 1985. Since then, no adjustment has been made until now or twenty four (24) years later.

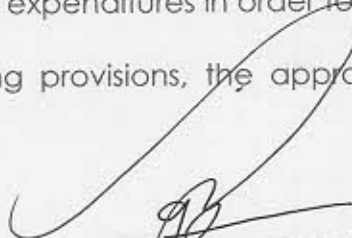
In recent press statement, Chairman Andres Bautista and some commissioners of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) urged the members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives to increase the authorized campaign expenditures of candidates and political parties to a more realistic level.

The bill therefore seeks to increase the authorized campaign expenses as follows: For candidates for the position of President and Vice-President from P10.00 to P50.00; and for other candidates, from three pesos (P 3.00) to fifteen pesos (P 15.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his candidacy; for a candidate without any political party and without support from any

political party, five pesos (P5.00) to twenty five pesos (P 25.00) for every such voter; and for political parties from five pesos (P5.00) to twenty five pesos (P25.00) for every currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

The fundamental objective of this bill is to make the authorized campaign expenses for all the candidates and political parties to a more realistic level in the light of economic developments that had eroded the purchasing power of the Philippine Peso. This would save the candidates from being penalized on the basis of an antiquated law and to falsify some of their expenditures in order to escape liability.

In view of the foregoing provisions, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.



GEORGE P. ARNAIZ

Representative

2nd District, Oriental Negros



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AN ACT

INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 14. 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:

For candidates.- [Ten] **FIFTY** Pesos (P[1]**50.00**) for President and Vice-President; and for other candidates, [Three] **FIFTEEN** Pesos (P[3]**15.00**) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his candidacy; *Provided, That* a candidate without any political party and without support from any political party may be allowed to spend [Five] **TWENTY FIVE** Pesos (P[5]**25.00**) for every such voter; and

For political parties. – [Five] **TWENTY FIVE** Pesos (P[5]**25.00**) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission shall not be subject to the payment of any gift tax."

SECTION 2. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 3. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations found inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,