

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5359



Introduced by Honorable Robert Ace S. Barbers

AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 2017 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

This bill seeks to reset the synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections scheduled on the fourth Monday of October 2017, to the fourth Monday of May 2020.

Barangays are our first line of defense in the grassroots level. As such, they must spearhead the government's fight against illegal drugs and must maintain a proactive stand in shielding the ordinary people from the drug menace. However, how will the barangay lead this war if some officials are patrons and protectors of drug lords? The barangay system is merely giving more benefit to the political patrons of these barangay officials, added to the fact that there is purported influence of drug money in the political exercise.

President Rodrigo Duterte said that he wants the October 2017 barangay elections postponed because he does not want those financed by drug lords to win. He further said that if the barangay elections would proceed as planned, the winners might be financed by drug money.

It is therefore paramount to postpone the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections to support the President's call. Under the proposed measure, the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on October 2017 shall be postponed to the fourth Monday of May 2020. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the second Monday of May 2023 and every three years thereafter. All incumbent barangay officials shall be deemed terminated upon the approval of this bill, and qualified persons will be appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte instead.

In support of the President's call to eliminate drugs and corruption among our barangay leaders, the immediate approval of this measure is highly recommended.

HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10656 and Republic Act No. 10923, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION. 1. Date of Election. - There shall be synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections, which shall be held on July 15, 2002. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of October 2007 and every three (3) years thereafter: *Provided, That* the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on October 2017 shall be postponed to the fourth Monday of May 2020. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the second Monday of May 2023 and every three (3) years thereafter."

SEC. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by Republic Act No. 9340, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. Assumption Office. - The term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected under this Act shall commence at noon of November 30 next following their election: *Provided, however, That* the term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected in the May 2020 elections and subsequently thereafter, shall commence at noon of June 30 next following their election."

SEC. 3. Appointment of Officers-in-Charge. - All incumbent barangay officials shall be deemed terminated upon the approval of this Act. Officers-in-charge shall be appointed by the President.

SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The COMELEC shall, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,