

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

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7202



Introduced by Honorable Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr.

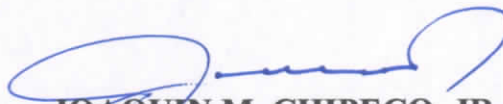
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Philippine law on elections, a candidate, for his campaign, is allowed to spend the maximum amount of P 3.00 for every voter, while political parties could only spend P 5.00. Our law on campaign expenditures was last updated in 1991, under Republic Act No. 7166 (the Synchronized Election Law). It stands to reason, therefore, that there is need for Congress to update the ceiling of authorized campaign expenditures to more realistic levels.

Congress has already started updating the amount of fines/penalties for crimes under the proposed Revised Penal Code Indexation Act. There is thus no reason why a similar reform should not be done with respect to our election laws, especially in view of the fast approach of our regular local and national elections. This reform should already be in place when the elections happen. It is a postulate in our constitutional law that regular elections is a bedrock of our democracy.

Outdated laws merely invite contempt, or worse, non-compliance. Come election time, every candidate shudder at the thought of violating antiquated limits on election expenditures. A number of them therefore do what they think is best for their own interest – “massage” the figures of their expenses or “tweak” their reports so as not to come out as a violator – which is all the worse for the integrity of our elections, not to mention the honesty of our would-be government officials.

For these and other cogent reasons, the early approval of this bill is urgently requested.


JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.
Representative
Second District of Laguna

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES
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 13 of Republic Act No. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 13. Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties. – The [agreement] AGGREGATE amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

1. For candidates. – [Ten] FIFTY pesos [(P10.00)] (P50.00) for President and Vice-President; and for other candidates, [Three] TWENTY FIVE Pesos [(P3.00)] (P25.00) 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 [Five] FIFTY Pesos [(P5.00)] (P50.00) for every such voter; and

2. For political parties – [Five] TWENTY FIVE Pesos [(P5.00)] (P25.00) 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.”

SEC. 2. The Commission on Elections shall immediately promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,