

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7217



Introduced by Representative Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to postpone the May 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections to May 2020.

The barangay is the most basic political unit of the country. It serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs and projects. The barangay also provides a platform for every resident to actively participate in the community. On the other hand, the sangguniang kabataan was instituted to ensure that the youth would be active and be well-represented at the grassroots level.

The importance of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan could not be more elucidated. However, since the 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections will be held a year before the 2019 National Elections, resetting the former will allow the COMELEC to adequately prepare for the latter.

At present, issues are being raised against COMELEC for exercising its Option to Purchase (OTP) the vote counting machines (VCM) used in 2016 for the upcoming 2019 National Elections. A House Resolution calling for an investigation on the matter has in fact already been filed.¹ Thus, moving the barangay elections to 2020 will give the COMELEC the opportunity to concentrate its attention and resources to ensuring that the conduct of the 2019 Elections will be orderly and beyond reproach.

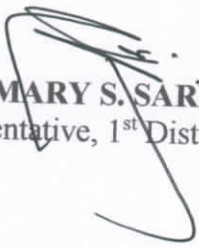
There are also other developments which may need the full participation of the COMELEC. Amending the supreme law of the land, for example, will need the active involvement of COMELEC and it is best if there are no other concerns that would divert from this.

In the meantime, it is hoped that postponing the barangay elections will allow the incumbent barangay officials to continue implementing the policies and programs of the current administration. This would allow non-disruption of the different programs of the barangay especially the infrastructure development. In addition to this,

¹ House Resolution 1647

it would strengthen the implementation of the peace and security programs of the government through the continuous involvement of the barangay.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO
Representative, 1st District Samar

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**AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2018 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIAN
KABATAAN ELECTIONS TO MAY 2020, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340,
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10923, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be in 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. 10632, Republic Act No. 10656, Republic Act No. 10923, and Republic Act No. 10952 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 23, 2017 shall be postponed to the second Monday of May **2020** [2018]. Subsequent synchronized barangay elections shall be held on the second Monday of May **2023** [2020] and every three (3) years thereafter.”

SECTION 2. *Hold Over* – Until the successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, all incumbent barangay officials shall remain in office, unless sooner removed or suspended for cause.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Commission on Elections, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause* – All law, decrees, ordinances, rules or regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby expressly repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause* – If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected hereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity* – This Act shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.