

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8372



Introduced by Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers

EXPLANATORY NOTE

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8189 OR THE
VOTER'S REGISTRATION ACT OF 1996**

This bill seeks to amend the period of election registration from 120 days to one year before a regular election. This is to give the Commission on Elections lead time to verify if new registrants are legitimate residents of the place where they propose to vote. This is to also encourage voters to register early.

Article V, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election."

The Comelec has always been vulnerable to flying voters or those who are registered in multiple precincts. This proposed amendment will give Comelec ample time to conduct house-to-house canvass to determine the existence of these illegal registrants. And with the help NGOs and civic organizations, these illegal voter-registrants will be removed from the list of voters to ensure that only qualified and duly registered voters would vote in their lawful residence.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

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

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REGISTRATION ACT OF 1996**

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

SECTION 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8189 or the Voters Registration Act of 1996 is hereby amended to read as follow:

*"Sec. 8. System of Continuing Registration of Voters. – The personal filing of application of registration of voters shall be conducted daily in the office of the Election Officer during regular office hours. No registration shall, however, be conducted [during the period starting one hundred twenty (120) days] **ONE (1) YEAR** before a regular election and [ninety (90) days] **SIX (6) MONTHS** before a special election.*

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, issuances, circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.