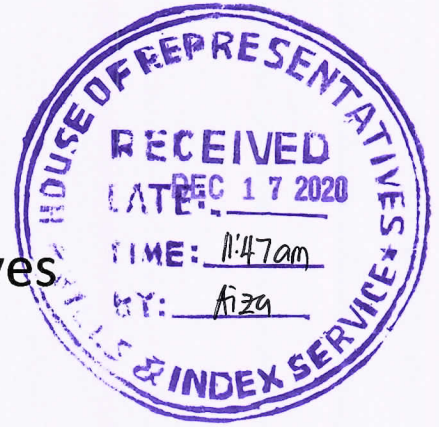




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8277

Introduced by Representative Isidro T. Ungab

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State is constitutionally-mandated to create autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras, as provided under Sections 15 to 22, Article X of the 1987 Constitution, to wit:

Section 15. There shall be created autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and in the Cordilleras consisting of provinces, cities, municipalities, and geographical areas sharing common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic and social structures, and other relevant characteristics within the framework of this Constitution and the national sovereignty as well as territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines.

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Section 18. The Congress shall enact an organic act for each autonomous region with the assistance and participation of the regional consultative commission composed of representatives appointed by the President from a list of nominees from multisectoral bodies. The organic act shall define the basic structure of government for the region consisting of the executive department and legislative assembly, both of which shall be elective and representative of the constituent political units. The organic acts shall likewise provide for special courts with personal, family and property law jurisdiction consistent with the provisions of this Constitution and national laws.xxx

On August 1, 1989, Congress enacted Republic Act (RA) No. 6734 entitled "*An Act Providing for an Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.*"

Thereafter, RA No. 9054, entitled "*An Act to Strengthen and Expand the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 6734,*"

entitled An Act Providing for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, as Amended", was passed, which provided further changes in the basic ARMM structure.

Then came the Bangsamoro Organic Law or Republic Act 11054, entitled "*An Act Providing for the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*", which abolished the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and created the basic structure of government for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, which is scheduled to conduct its First Regular Election in 2022.

This bill seeks to extend the Bangsamoro transition period from 2022 to 2025, by amending Section 13 Article XVI of Republic Act 11504 or the Organic law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, postponing the conduct of its First Regular Election in 2022 and reset it to 2025.

The move to postpone is prompted, among others, by the fact that the nation is still facing the deadly Corona Virus Disease (COVID)-19, and that the government's time, effort and resources are primarily being used to handle and deal the medical and health challenges brought on by the ongoing pandemic.

Further, the BARMM transitional government, Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), led by Bangsamoro Interim Chief Minister Murad Ebrahim, also pointed out the BTA's need for *more time to build bureaucracy, pass foundational codes, and help former Moro Islamic Liberation Front combatants improve their quality of life*, noting that the pandemic undeniably delayed many aspects of the transition.

In order for the BTA to accomplish the tasks outlined under the Bangsamoro Law, such as passing the five priority codes: Administrative, Revenue, Electoral, Local Government and Educational Code, as well as the Civil Service Code and the Indigenous Peoples Code; organize the bureaucracy; setting up of office and other institutions necessary for the continued functioning of government and the delivery of social services, which enable a strong and stable regional government and economy, this bill seeks to extend the Bangsamoro transition period from 2022 to 2025 and postpone the conduct of the BARMM First Regular Election in 2022 and reset it to 2025.

Premises considered, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. ISIDRO T. UNGAB
3rd District, Davao City



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8277

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AN ACT
RESETTING THE FIRST REGULAR ELECTIONS FOR THE BANGSAMORO
GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ORGANIC LAW, AMENDING SECTION 13
ARTICLE XVI OF REPUBLIC ACT 11054, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
THE ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN
MUSLIM MINDANAO, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 6734
ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIC LAW OF THE
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC
ACT 9054 ENTITLED AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE ORGANIC
ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND FIXING
FOR THIS PURPOSE THE FIRST REGULAR ELECTION FOR THE
BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT

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

Section 1. Section 13 Article XVI of the Republic Act No. 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law is hereby amended to read as follows.

Section 13. First Regular Election. - The first regular election for the Bangsamoro Government under this Organic Law shall be held and synchronized with the (2022) 2025 national elections. The Commission on elections, through the Bangsamoro Electoral Office, shall promulgate rules and regulations for the conduct of the elections, enforce and administer them pursuant to national laws, this Organic Law and the Bangsamoro Electoral Code.

Section 2. Separability Clause. -- If for any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional, provisions not affected shall remain valid and binding.

Section 3. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees orders, rules and regulations and all other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the President.

Approved.