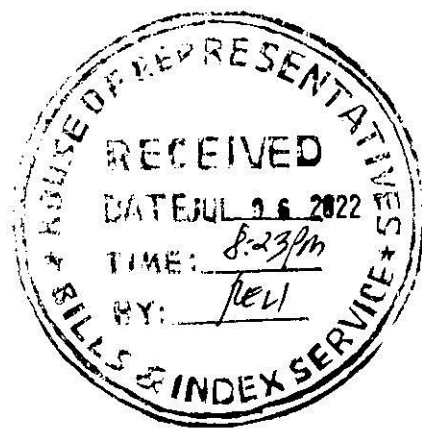


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1378



Introduced by Representatives
MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING and HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE FIELD OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
BY UPGRADING AND CREATING CERTAIN POSITIONS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 53 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE,” AS AMENDED AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) was created by a constitutional amendment through Commonwealth Act No. 657 and is mandated to enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of elections, plebiscites, initiative, referendum, and recall, among others.

To date, the COMELEC has around 6,000 employees nationwide. These civil servants perform invaluable service to the Filipino people in ensuring the credibility of the elections remain intact. However, the COMELEC employees' salaries, especially those assigned to the field offices, are disproportionate to the salaries received by their counterparts in other government offices. Furthermore, the mandate of the COMELEC is not fully realized due to the lack of manpower in its field offices.

To answer the clamor of the COMELEC employees for adequate staffing and equal remuneration for their services, this bill seeks to create additional positions as well as reclassify and upgrade their salaries accordingly. Moreover, there is now a distinction between a Highly Urbanized City Election Office and a City or Municipal Election Office.

Not only will this strengthen the field offices of the Commission but it will also inspire its personnel to be more responsive to the public and further protect the right of suffrage of the Filipino people.

In recognition of the important role of the COMELEC in preserving the country's democratic process, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.¹


MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
1st District of Nueva Ecija


HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.
2nd District of Sultan Kudarat

¹ This bill was filed during the 18th Congress and was approved on Third and Final Reading.

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
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Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1378**

Introduced by Representatives
MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING and HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE FIELD OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
BY UPGRADING AND CREATING CERTAIN POSITIONS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 53 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN
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THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 53 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 881 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 53. Field offices of the Commission. - The Commission shall have the following field offices:

(1) Regional Election Office, headed by the Regional Election Director **WITH RANK OF DIRECTOR IV** and assisted by the Assistant Regional Director **WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR III. OTHER OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE ARE REGIONAL ELECTION ATTORNEY, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V, ACCOUNTANT III, HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER III, SUPPLY OFFICER III, STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER III, WATCHMAN, PROCESS SERVER, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV, ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST, UTILITY WORKER AND DRIVER II.**

THE POSITIONS AND CORRESPONDING SALARY GRADES IN THE REGIONAL ELECTION OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POSITIONS	SALARY GRADE
DIRECTOR IV	28
DIRECTOR III	27
ATTORNEY V	25
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V	22
ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST	21
ACCOUNTANT III	19
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER III	18
SUPPLY OFFICER III	18
STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER III	11
WATCHMAN	7
PROCESS SERVER	5
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV	4
UTILITY WORKER	3
DRIVER II	3

- (2) Provincial Election Office, headed by the Provincial Election [Supervisor and assisted by such other subordinate officers or employees as the Commission may appoint] **DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR II. OTHER OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE ARE COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST, ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V, WATCHMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV, UTILITY WORKER AND DRIVER II.**

THE POSITIONS AND CORRESPONDING SALARY GRADES IN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POSITION	SALARY GRADE
DIRECTOR II	26

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	21
ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST	21
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V	18
WATCHMAN	7
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV	4
UTILITY WORKER	3
DRIVER II	3

(3) [City/Municipal Election Office, headed by the CityMunicipal Registrar who shall be assisted by an election clerk and such other employees as the Commission may appoint.] **HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY (HUC) ELECTION OFFICE, HEADED BY THE HUC ELECTION DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR II AND ASSISTED BY A MINIMUM OF TWO (2) ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALISTS. OTHER OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE ARE COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V, WATCHMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV, UTILITY WORKER AND DRIVER II.**

THE POSITIONS AND CORRESPONDING SALARY GRADES IN THE HUC ELECTION OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POSITION	SALARY GRADE
DIRECTOR II	26
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	21
ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST	21
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V	18
WATCHMAN	7
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV	4

UTILITY WORKER	3
DRIVER II	3

(4) CITY OR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICE, HEADED BY THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICER WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR I. THERE SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF TWO (2) ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALISTS IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY: *PROVIDED*, THAT FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 20,000 VOTERS IN EXCESS OF 50,000 VOTERS, ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALISTS SHALL BE APPOINTED. OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE ARE WATCHMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV AND UTILITY WORKER.

THE POSITIONS AND CORRESPONDING SALARY GRADES IN THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY ELECTION OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POSITION	SALARY GRADE
DIRECTOR I	24
ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST	21
WATCHMAN	7
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV	4
UTILITY WORKER	3

“ONLY THE PERSONNEL MENTIONED IN THIS SECTION OR EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY LAW, SHALL BE ASSIGNED, DESIGNATED, ENGAGED OR DETAILED AT THE COMMISSION’S FIELD OFFICES, OR ALLOWED TO PERFORM ADMINISTRATIVE OR CLERICAL WORK IN THE FIELD OFFICES. VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION SHALL CONSTITUTE AN ELECTION OFFENSE.

1 The Commission may delegate its powers and functions or order the
2 implementation or enforcement of its orders, rulings or decisions through
3 the heads of its field offices.

4 **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE**
5 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIZATION, STAFFING,**
6 **POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION**
7 **STANDARDS AND SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE**
8 **DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) FOR**
9 **EVALUATION AND APPROVAL.”**

10 **SEC. 2.** The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the
11 available appropriations of the COMELEC. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its
12 continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13 **SEC. 3.** Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Chairperson of the Commission
14 on Elections shall, in coordination with the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission and
15 Secretary of Budget and Management, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
16 effective implementation of this Act.

17 **SEC. 4.** If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining
18 parts or provisions not affected shall remain in force and effect.

19 **SEC. 5.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof
20 inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are amended, modified, or repealed
21 accordingly.

22 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or
23 in a newspaper of general circulation.

24 Approved,