

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1533



Introduced by Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 9 AND SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8189
OR THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION ACT OF 1996**

Our Constitution and election laws provide a residency requirement of at least six months preceding the election. However, it seems that the people are making a mockery of this requirement as the COMELEC has no way of knowing whether the registrants are legitimate residents of the place where they propose to vote.

It is now a rampant practice in our country before the election period for people to register anew or transfer their registration to a new place even if they are unqualified in terms of residency requirements for voter's registration. They simply have to present their identification cards as proof of their identity just to qualify in their registration. This has been the one of the sources of flying voters in the country.

This bill seeks to amend Section 9 of Republic Act. No. 8189 or the Voter's Registration Act of 1996 by requiring the presentation of proof of residence in addition to proof of identity during voter's registration to prevent the problem of perennial flying voters. This will strengthen and protect the sanctity of our right to suffrage and the integrity of our election system.

Furthermore, this bill seeks to amend Section 27 of the same Act by changing the failure to vote for two (2) successive preceding regular elections requirement to three (3) successive preceding regular elections before a registered voter could be disenfranchised.

The intention of the people who registered to vote is really to exercise their right to suffrage. Their failure to vote maybe unintentional on their part because of circumstances beyond their control. Hence, consideration should be given to them especially since the right to suffrage is their political right conferred by our Constitution.

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

SECTION 1. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 8189 or the Voters Registration Act of 1996 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 9. *Who may Register.* – All citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law who are at least eighteen (18) years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one (1) year, and in the [place] **BARANGAY** wherein they propose to vote, for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the election, may register as a voter. **PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO PERSON SHALL BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER WITHOUT PRESENTING ANY VALID PROOF OF RESIDENCE.**

AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM VALID PROOF OF RESIDENCE SHALL REFER TO:

- A. TAX DECLARATION OR RECEIPT OF PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX, OR A CERTIFICATION FROM THE LANDOWNER OR LESSOR OF RESIDENTIAL UNIT, APARTMENT, CONDOMINIUM, DORMITORY OR SIMILAR DWELLING UNITS WHERE HE/SHE IS RESIDING AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION;**
- B. A RECENT HOUSEHOLD UTILITY BILL UNDER HIS/HER NAME, WHICH INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, GAS, ELECTRIC, WATER, MOBILE OR TELEPHONE, CABLE, INTERNET OR CREDIT CARD BILL; AND**
- C. AFFIDAVIT OF AT LEAST TWO DISINTERESTED WITNESSES WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE PLACE WHERE HE/SHE PROPOSES TO VOTE, THAT HE/SHE IS A RESIDENT OF THE PLACE; OR**

D. OTHER COMPETENT PROOF OF RESIDENCE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMISSION THROUGH AN EN BANC RESOLUTION.

Any person who temporarily resides in another [city, municipality] **BARANGAY** or **ANOTHER** country solely by reason of his occupation, profession or employment in private or public service, educational activities, work in the military or naval reservations within the Philippines, service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the National Police Forces, or confinement or detention in government institutions in accordance with law, shall not be deemed to have lost his original residence.

Any person, who, on the day of registration may not have reached the required age or period of residence but, who, on the day of the election shall possess such qualifications, may register as a voter.”

SEC. 2. Section 27 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 27. *Deactivation of Registration.* –

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(d.) Any person who did not vote in the [two (2)] **THREE (3)** successive preceding regular elections as shown by their voting records. For this purpose, regular elections do not include the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections;

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SEC. 3. *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.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.