

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1696**



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ

AN ACT POSTPONING THE DECEMBER 2022 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11462

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed bill seeks to postpone the upcoming synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan ("SK") elections scheduled on December 2022, as stated in Republic Act No. 11462, to a later date in May 2023.

The postponement of the synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan ("SK") elections will inure to the benefit of the general public considering that the budget for the said elections in the amount of P8.141 Billion may be utilized and allocated to resources and services necessary for the response and recovery of the nation from the unprecedented and continuous onslaught of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

As of late, the country sees a rise in COVID-19 infections which needs to be addressed with resolute urgency. In order to ensure continuity and effectiveness in the implementation of local and national plans and programs at barangay levels, there is a need for the incumbent barangay officials and SK members to remain in the frontline of the implementation of local and national policies addressing COVID-19.

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


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Be it 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, 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 the second Monday of May 2020 shall be postponed to May 8, 2022. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the first Monday of December 2025 and every three (3) years thereafter."

SEC 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC 4. *Assumption of Office.* – The term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected under this Act shall commence at noon of June 30 next following their election."

SEC 3. *Hold-Over.* – Until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, all incumbent barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials shall remain in office, unless sooner removed or suspended for cause: *Provided*, That barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials who are *ex officio* members of the sangguniang bayan, sangguniang panlungsod, or sangguniang panlalawigan, as the case may be, shall continue to serve as such members in the sanggunian concerned until the next barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections.

SEC 4. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) under the General Appropriations Act and/or supplementary appropriations thereafter.

SEC 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presedential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately following the completion of its publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.