



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5472



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10366, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN
ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO DESIGNATE
PRECINCTS ASSIGNED TO ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES EXCLUSIVELY
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, PREGNANT WOMEN, AND SENIOR CITIZENS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

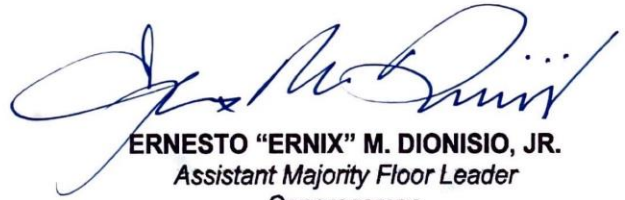
Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations states: “State Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake: a) to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected”

Likewise, the United Nations Principles for Older Persons states: “Older persons should remain integrated in society, participate actively in the formulation and implementation of policies that directly affect their well being and share their knowledge and skills with younger generations.”

Furthermore, Article V, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution states: “The Congress shall provide a system for securing the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot as well as a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad. The Congress shall also design a procedure for the disabled and the illiterates to vote without the assistance of other persons. Until then, they shall be allowed to vote under existing laws and such rules as the Commission on Elections may promulgate to protect the secrecy of the ballot”

In line with the aforementioned provisions, this bill seeks to make voting more accessible to the vulnerable members of society, with the introduction of measures designed to eliminate barriers to ingress to polling places.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the bill is highly sought.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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CITIZENS

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

SECTION 1. Section 2(0) of Republic Act No. 10366 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. XXX

"XXX

"(j) Accessible polling place refers to the venue where the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) conduct election-related proceedings and where the voters cast their votes. The accessible polling place shall be located on the ground floor, preferably near the entrance of the building, **SHALL BE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**, and [is] **SHALL BE** free of any physical barriers and provided with necessary **INFRASTRUCTURE AND** services, including assistive devices [], **RAMPS, RAILINGS, SIDEWALKS, ADEQUATE LIGHTING, VENTILATION AND OTHER FEATURES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, PREGNANT WOMEN, AND SENIOR CITIZENS.**"

SECTION 2. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 10366 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 9. [Creation of] Precincts for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens. - The Commission is hereby authorized to [establish] **DESIGNATE** precincts [of a non-territorial nature, exclusively for] **IN ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF** persons with disabilities, **PREGNANT WOMEN**, and senior citizens, ~~[who in their registration records manifest their intent to avail of their right to a separate precinct under this section. Pursuant hereto, the Commission shall establish at least one (1) such precinct, assigned to accessible polling places, for every voting center.]~~ **SUCH AS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TOWN HALLS OR PLAZAS, CIVIC CENTERS, COMMUNITY CENTERS, OR OTHER SIMILARLY DESIGNATED SPECIAL VENUES OR AREAS, AND PREFERABLY THOSE DESIGNED WITH SPECIAL FEATURES, TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND COMFORT.** Such precincts shall be provided with assistive **devices PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2(J) OF THIS ACT** as well as the services of experts in assisting persons with disabilities."

SEC. 3. Within sixty {60} days from its effectivity, the Commission shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. 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. 5. All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,