



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

**Nineteenth Congress  
First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 7246**



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**Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to make voting convenient for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) by allowing them to vote earlier than the date set for the elections.

This measure provides, among others, for national and local elections, there shall be early voting where qualified senior citizens and PWDs may choose to cast their ballot at accessible establishments designated by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) within seven (7) working days before the date set for the elections.

Similarly, this bill mandates the COMELEC to ensure that polling places are safe and accessible to senior citizens and PWDs and adequately fitted with the necessary communication, visual, and physical aids.

Hence, this representation seeks the passage of this measure.

**RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I**



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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING BY QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of  
2 the State to make voting convenient for senior citizens and persons with  
3 disabilities (PWDs) by giving them the option to vote earlier than the date set  
4 for the elections.

5  
6 **SEC. 2. Early Voting.** - For national and local elections, there shall be early  
7 voting where qualified senior citizens and PWDs may choose to cast their ballot  
8 at accessible establishments designated by the Commission on Elections  
9 (COMELEC) within seven (7) working days before the date set for the elections.

10  
11 **SEC. 3. Registration.** - There shall be a nationwide registration for  
12 senior citizens and PWDs to qualify them to avail of this early voting privilege.  
13 Those who are not registered under this Act shall vote on Election  
14 Day.

15  
16 **SEC. 4. Obligations of the COMELEC.** - To ensure the effective implementation  
17 of this Act, the COMELEC shall:

18  
19 (a) Keep a record of senior citizens and PWDs who are registered voters;

20  
21 (b) Design a registration system, in coordination with local government units,  
22 the National Council on Disability Affairs, the Commission on Human Rights,  
23 the Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local Government,  
24 that allows senior citizens and PWDs to register and opt for early voting;

1  
2 (c) Ensure that polling places are safe and accessible to senior citizens and  
3 PWDs, and properly fitted with the necessary communication, visual and  
4 physical aids, as mandated under Republic Act No. 10366 entitled, An  
5 Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts Assigned to  
6 Accessible Polling Places Exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and Senior  
7 Citizens”; and  
8

9 (d) Mount an intensive information campaign on early voting for  
10 qualified senior citizens and PWDs.  
11

12 **SEC 5. Appropriations.** – The initial amount for the implementation of  
13 this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the  
14 COMELEC. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual  
15 General Appropriations Act.  
16

17 **SEC. 6. Applicability of Other Laws.** - The provisions of Batas  
18 Pambansa Blg. 881 or the Omnibus Election Code; Republic Act No.  
19 7166, entitled, “An Act Providing for Synchronized National and Local Elections  
20 and for Electoral Reforms, Authorizing Appropriations Therefor, and for Other  
21 Purposes”; and other election laws not inconsistent herewith shall be  
22 applied to facilitate early voting for qualified senior citizens and PWDs.  
23

24 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within ninety (90) days  
25 from its effectivity, the Commission shall promulgate the rules and regulations  
26 for the implementation of this Act.  
27

28 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
29 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby  
30 shall remain in force and effect.  
31

32 **SEC 9. Repealing Clause.** - All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive  
33 orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts  
34 thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act,  
35 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.  
36

37 **SEC. 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
38 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general  
39 circulation.

Approved,