



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 102

Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

No less than the highest law of the land guarantees each Filipino citizen's right to suffrage and, unless disqualified by law, has very minimal requirements in age and residency. The Philippine Constitution clearly states a "no literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage." This is in recognition of voting as a fundamental human right that is absolutely vital in the democratic process. The government's role is to take proactive measures to guarantee that all citizens have the opportunity to exercise this right to their fullest extent.

Taking into account the situation in the country, voting is different for every Filipino. For some, their polling station is close, a few blocks away and within walking distance, or maybe just a tricycle or jeepney ride. For others, they would need to travel that would sometimes end up having to travel for several hours or an entire day because they are still registered in a distant province. In addition, one has to wait for several minutes or hours because of the long queues at the polling stations in the midst of intense heat or heavy rains. Despite these challenges, Filipinos willingly sacrifice to perform their duty for the country. As Filipinos, we take pride in casting our votes on election day despite the hardships.

However, despite the fact that the voting Filipino citizens are the very engine that runs this government, election day is currently not considered a regular Holiday as compared to others such as Labor Day, Independence Day, National Day, and the like. Currently, our national elections, which are held every second Monday of May, are only considered a mere special non-working holiday and only by virtue of a Presidential

Proclamation which is customarily issued shortly before the elections day itself. As such, and according to our Labor Code, those who work on this day will only be given an additional thirty percent (30%) of their daily wage, while those who choose not to work will not be paid because of the "no work, no pay" policy.

Evidently, there is a practical flaw in the fundamental exercise of democracy that should and can be addressed through this legislation. I believe that voters should be free from any fear or burden in order to vote. That in the minds of every voter, they should never have to make a choice between the future of our nation and the ability to earn a day's wage to support their family.

This measure seeks to remedy this by making national elections a regular holiday, thereby allowing Filipinos the right to full payment of wages every election day and would help ensure their participation in the democratic process. Voters shouldn't have to rush through the process, give thoughtful consideration to their choices, and have ample time for the undecided to study the qualifications of all candidates.

Consider the potential impact if we were to establish an election day that eliminates the constraints of work or other obligations, creating a day that is more convenient and devoid of concerns for our fellow Filipinos. And that the only decision each would need to make is which candidate to vote for as we gather at our designated polling stations. In the last two national elections, May 2022 and May 2025, the voter turnout recorded a commendable rate of 83 percent and 82.2 percent, respectively. The Commission on Elections even declared that the May 12, 2025 elections is the highest ever recorded in a midterm election. A great feat for the democratic process, indeed.

Furthermore, elections and the act of casting one's ballot will no longer be regarded as mere chores. Instead, it can be embraced as a day of celebration that unifies us as a people and as a nation. By fostering a sense of collective pride and significance in the electoral process, we elevate it beyond a mere obligation. We, as a people and nation, shall transform it into a shared experience that brings and strengthens us together.

This bill was filed in the 19th Congress and was passed by the Lower House in the third and final reading, hence, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JC M. ABALOS
Representative
4Ps Partylist



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AN ACT
DECLARING NATIONAL ELECTION DAY AS A REGULAR NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 26, CHAPTER 7, BOOK
I OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
"THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987"

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared that every national election shall be a regular non-working holiday to incentivize the electorate to exercise their democratic right of suffrage.

SEC. 2. The term "national election" shall include activities such as plebiscite, referendum, people's initiative, recall election, special election, regional elections, and other processes of voting of a similar nature which are national in scope.

SEC. 3. Section 26, Chapter 7, Book I of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as "The Administrative Code of 1987", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 26. Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days. - (1) Unless 10 otherwise modified by law, order, or proclamation, the following regular 11 holidays and special days shall be observed in the country:

"(A) Regular Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
Maundy Thursday	Movable Date
Good Friday	Movable Date
Eidul Fitr	Movable Date
Eidul Adha	Movable Date
Araw ng Kagitingan (Bataan and Corregidor Day)	Monday nearest April 9
Labor Day	Monday nearest May 1
NATIONAL ELECTION DAY	DAY DESIGNATED BY LAW FOR HOLDING OF A NATIONAL ELECTION
Independence Day	Monday nearest June 12
National Heroes Day	Last Monday of August
Bonifacio Day	Monday nearest November 30
Christmas Day	December 25
Rizal Day	Monday nearest December 30

"xxx."

SEC. 4. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,