

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5709



Introduced by **HON. NICANOR M. BRIONES**
Representative, AGAP Party List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a democratic country, our right to vote, firmly instituted in our Constitution, is one of the most important rights that needs protection. The exercise of our right to suffrage upholds the principle that sovereignty resides in the people. Hence, it is necessary that participation by all Filipinos is ensured during the electoral process.

In the past years, Congress has heard and passed laws expanding local absentee voting that covered media personnel, members of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines. This demonstrates the paramount importance of exercising our right to vote despite performance of duties and responsibilities that may be required of one's occupation.

This bill recognizes the right to vote of private security professionals as defined by Republic Act No. 11917, otherwise known as the Private Security Services Industry Act. By the nature of their work, security personnel are indispensable in ensuring the safety and security of persons and establishments, especially in critical days such as national and local election days. Similar to members of the police, it is their duty to remain within the premises of their assigned areas or be on call in case contingency arises. More often than not, the performance of their duties prevent them from going to their local precincts to vote which may lead to their deactivation as voters.

Hence, this bill is filed to allow private security professionals to avail of local absentee voting in the national elections. Through this bill, it is hoped that we afford the same liberty given to police officers to our security personnel who have only been dedicated to their obligations as complements of our law enforcement agencies in the preservation of peace and order in the country.

In view of the above, the approval of this bill is hereby earnestly requested. This is a re-filed bill from the 19th Congress.



NICANOR M. BRIONES
Representative
AGAP Partylist

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR LOCAL ABSENTEE VOTING
FOR PRIVATE SECURITY PROFESSIONALS**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall ensure the free exercise of the right of suffrage by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law.

SEC. 2. Local Absentee Voting for Private Security Professionals. – The Commission on Elections shall extend the right to vote under the local absentee voting system provided under existing laws and executive orders to private security professionals, as defined in Republic Act No. 11917, who are duly registered voters and who, on election day, may not be able to vote due to the performance of their functions in providing security services: *Provided, That* they shall be allowed to vote only for the positions of President, Vice President, Senators and Party-List Representative.

SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Commission on Elections, in consultation with the Philippine National Police, shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations which shall include a system of accreditation and verification of private security professionals who are qualified to avail of local absentee voting.

SEC. 4. Appropriations. – The initial funding of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations or from any available savings of the Commission on Elections. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act shall

be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions, rules and regulations, other issuances, and parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,