

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6246

Introduced by REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 66 OF THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE (BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881), AS AMENDED, BY REQUIRING APPOINTIVE PUBLIC OFFICERS TO RESIGN AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR BEFORE THE FILING OF THEIR CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Omnibus Election Code (Batas Pambansa Blg. 881), as amended, currently provides that any person holding a public appointive office or position is considered ipso facto resigned upon the filing of their Certificate of Candidacy (COC). This provision seeks to maintain the principle of fairness and ensure that government resources are not used to advance the political interests of appointive officials.

However, the realities of modern governance and election dynamics call for a more stringent safeguard. The advantage enjoyed by appointive officials who remain in their posts until the time of filing their COC cannot be overstated. Their continued access to government resources, personnel, and influence creates an uneven playing field that may compromise the integrity of elections and the public trust in government institutions.

This bill, therefore, seeks to amend Section 66 of the Omnibus Election Code by requiring that all appointive public officers, including members of the Armed

Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and employees of government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), shall be deemed ipso facto resigned one (1) year before the filing of their COC.

The measure aims to ensure fairness, impartiality, and ethical conduct among those aspiring to elective office, while protecting public service from undue political influence. By establishing a clear separation between public office and political ambition, this amendment reinforces the constitutional mandate that public office is a public trust.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage 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:

1 SECTION 1. Section 66 of the Omnibus Election Code (Batas Pambansa
2 Blg. 881), as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

3 “Section 66. *Candidates holding appointive office or*
4 *positions.* — Any person holding a public appointive office or
5 position, including active members of the Armed Forces of the
6 Philippines, and officers and employees in government-owned or
7 controlled corporations, shall ~~[be considered ipso facto resigned~~
8 ~~from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy]~~
9 **RESIGN AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR BEFORE THE FILING OF**
10 **THE CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY (COC) FOR ANY**
11 **ELECTIVE PUBLIC OFFICE.”**

12 SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive
13 orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are
14 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared
2 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall
3 continue to be in full force and effect.

4 SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6 *Approved,*