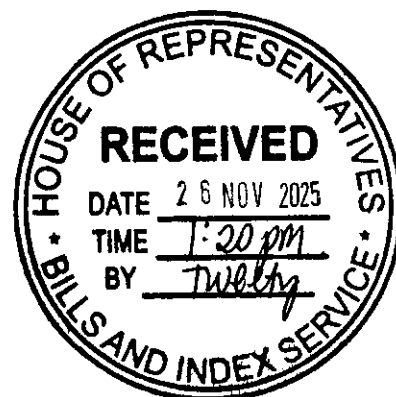


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6409



Introduced by REP. DENNIS "TOM" L. HERNANDEZ

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE FIELD OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION ON
ELECTIONS BY UPGRADING AND CREATING CERTAIN POSITIONS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 53 OF BATAS PAMBANSA
BILANG 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "OMNIBUS ELECTION
CODE," AS AMENDED AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to strengthen the field offices of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) by creating new personnel positions and upgrading existing ones.

The bill effectively amends Section 53 of the Omnibus Election Code (Batas Pambansa Bilang 881) and shall be updated in accordance with the organization, staffing pattern, position classification and compensation standards that COMELEC employees have long lobbied for.

This measure shall make the COMELEC more responsive to the public with its mandate to protect our right to suffrage. The reclassification of the existing COMELEC field offices' plantilla positions to upgrade their salaries accordingly and attract more professionals to the Commission shall bring the COMELEC to near parity with the other Constitutional Commissions such as the Commission on Audit, Civil Service Commission and the Commission on Human Rights.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. DENNIS "TOM" L. HERNANDEZ
4th District of Rizal 

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CODE," AS AMENDED AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 53 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 881 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 53. Field offices of the Commission. – The Commission shall have the following field offices:

- (1) Regional Election Office, headed by the Regional Election Director **WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR IV** and assisted by the Assistant Regional Director **WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR III**.

OTHER OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE ARE REGIONAL ELECTION ATTORNEY, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V, ACCOUNTANT III, HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER III, SUPPLY OFFICER III, STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER III, WATCHMAN, PROCESS SERVER, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV, ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST, UTILITY WORKER, AND DRIVER II.

THE POSITIONS AND CORRESPONDING SALARY GRADES IN THE REGIONAL ELECTION OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POSITIONS	SALARY GRADES
DIRECTOR IV	28
DIRECTOR III	27
ATTORNEY V	25
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V	22

ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST	21
ACCOUNTANT III	19
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER III	18
SUPPLY OFFICER III	18
STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER III	11
WATCHMAN	7
PROCESS SERVER	5
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV	4
UTILITY WORKER	3
DRIVER II	3

- (2) Provincial Election Office, headed by the Provincial Election [Supervisor and assisted by such other subordinate officers or employees as the Commission may appoint] **DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR II. OTHER OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE ARE COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST, ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V, WATCHMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV, UTILITY WORKER AND DRIVER II.**

THE POSITIONS AND CORRESPONDING SALARY GRADES IN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POSITIONS	SALARY GRADES
DIRECTOR II	26
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	21
ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST	21
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V	18
WATCHMAN	7
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV	4
UTILITY WORKER	3
DRIVER II	3

- (3) [City/Municipal Election Office, headed by the City/Municipal Registrar who shall be assisted by an election clerk and such other employees as the Commission may appoint.] **HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY (HUC) ELECTION OFFICE, HEADED BY THE HUC ELECTION DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR II AND ASSISTED BY A MINIMUM OF TWO (2) ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALISTS. OTHER OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE ARE COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V, WATCHMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV, UTILITY WORKER AND DRIVER II.**

THE POSITIONS AND CORRESPONDING SALARY GRADES IN THE HUC ELECTION OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POSITIONS	SALARY GRADES
DIRECTOR II	26
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	21
ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALISTS	21
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V	18
WATCHMAN	7
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV	4
UTILITY WORKER	3
DRIVER II	3

- (4) CITY OR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICE, HEADED BY THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICER WITH THE RANK OF DIRECTOR I. THERE SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF TWO (2) ASSISTAN ELECTION SPECIALISTS IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY: *PROVIDED*, THAT FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 20,000 VOTERS IN EXCESS OF 50,000 VOTERS, ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALISTS SHALL BE APPOINTED. OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE ARE WATCHMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV AND UTILITY WORKER.

THE POSITIONS AND CORRESPONDING SALARY GRADES IN THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POSITIONS	SALARY GRADES
DIRECTOR I	24
ASSISTANT ELECTION SPECIALIST	21
WATCHMAN	7
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV	4
UTILITY WORKER	3

"ONLY THE PERSONNEL MENTIONED IN THIS SECTION OR EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY LAW, SHALL BE ASSIGNED, DESIGNATED, ENGAGED OR DETAILED AT THE COMMISSION'S FIELD OFFICES, OR ALLOWED TO PERFORM ADMINISTRATIVE OR CLERICAL WORK IN THE FIELD OFFICES. VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION SHALL CONSTITUTE AN ELECTION OFFENSE.

The Commission may delegate its powers and functions or order the implementation or enforcement of its orders, rulings or decisions through the heads of its field offices.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STANDARDS AND SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) FOR

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL.”

SEC. 2. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the COMELEC. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Chairperson of the Commission on Elections shall, in coordination with the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission and Secretary of Budget and Management, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 5. – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are amended, modified, or repealed 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,