



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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE BILL NO. 7236



**Introduced by Representatives
ZIAUR-RAHMAN "ZIA" ALONTO ADIONG, YASSER ALONTO
BALINDONG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the Bangsamoro Organic Law, established the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and laid down the framework for the transition from the Bangsamoro Transition Authority to a democratically elected Bangsamoro Parliament. Under Article XVI, Section 13 of the Organic Law, the conduct of the first regular parliamentary elections is a critical milestone to complete the transition process and fully operationalize the Bangsamoro Government.

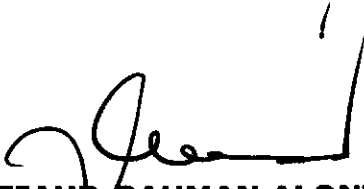
Subsequent legislative and political developments necessitated adjustments to the transition timeline. These developments were further compounded by a recent decision of the Supreme Court which declared unconstitutional the Bangsamoro Autonomy Act that sought to effect parliamentary redistricting within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in response to another Supreme Court Decision which removed Sulu from the BARMM.

As a consequence of this ruling, the legal basis for conducting parliamentary elections under the previously enacted BARMM redistricting law was rendered invalid. This created a constitutional and statutory gap that must be addressed by Congress to ensure that the forthcoming Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections are conducted on a sound legal footing, consistent with the Constitution, the Bangsamoro Organic Law, and prevailing jurisprudence.

This bill is therefore proposed to amend Section 13, Article XVI of Republic Act No. 11054 to reset the date of the first regular Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections, provide for the continued exercise of authority by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority during the extended transition period, and authorize the Commission on Elections to undertake the necessary measures to ensure an orderly, inclusive, and credible electoral process. It likewise ensures continuity in the use of the automated election system, clarifies voter eligibility, sets the assumption of office of winning candidates, and provides for the necessary appropriations for the implementation of the elections.

Ultimately, this measure seeks to uphold constitutional supremacy, comply with the Supreme Court ruling on legislative redistricting, preserve the integrity of the Bangsamoro peace process, and ensure that the transition to a fully elected Bangsamoro Parliament is achieved in a lawful, transparent, and democratic manner.

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



HON. ZIAUR-RAHMAN ALONTO ADIONG
1st District, Lanao del Sur



HON. YASSER ALONTO BALINDONG
2nd District, Lanao del Sur



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DATE OF THE FIRST REGULAR PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN
MUSLIM MINDANAO AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13,
ARTICLE XVI OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO", AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 13, Article XVI of Republic Act No. 11054, as amended, otherwise known as the "Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao", is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 13. *First Regular Election.* – The first regular election for the Bangsamoro Government under this Organic Law shall be held on **SEPTEMBER 28, 2026**. The next election shall be held and synchronized with the 2028 national and local elections, and every three (3) years thereafter. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall promulgate rules and regulations for the conduct of the elections, enforce, and administer them pursuant to national laws, this Organic Law and the Bangsamoro Electoral Code."

SECTION 2. During the extension of the transition period, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) shall continue as the interim government in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), unless such interim members are replaced by the President, or their tenure is shortened by their election to a different office or by other causes. The interim members of the BTA shall serve until their successors shall have been elected and qualified in an automated election.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to this Act, the automated election system that was employed during the May 12, 2025 National and Local Elections shall likewise be utilized for the conduct of the SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 BARMM Parliamentary Election. This includes all machines, devices, and equipment used, as well as the respective suppliers and providers involved in their operation and maintenance. The adoption of the same automated election system aims to ensure consistency, efficiency, and integrity in the electoral process for the BARMM Parliamentary Election. *Provided,* That in case the Commission on Elections shall determine that the adoption of an automated election system is no longer practicable based on the surrounding circumstances prior to the BARMM Parliamentary Election, it shall have the authority to explore other modes of conducting the election, such as, but not limited to manual election.

SECTION 4. There shall be a new period for the filing of certificate of candidacy for parliamentary district representative, and list of nominees and certificate of acceptance of nomination with affidavit of non-affinity of duly accredited political parties or coalitions thereof: *Provided,* That those filed on November 4 to 9, 2024 must be refiled within the new period set: *Provided, further,* That the COMELEC shall have the authority to issue appropriate rules and guidelines therefor: *Provided, finally,* That substitution of candidates and nominees shall not be allowed, except in cases of death or disqualification, pursuant to the rules and guidelines promulgated by the COMELEC.

SECTION 5. In order to ensure the orderly, inclusive, and credible conduct of sectoral assemblies, the COMELEC may, when warranted by the election timeline, the number of participating sectoral organizations, or the requirements for the effective preparation and conduct of sectoral assemblies, authorize the reopening of the filing of Manifestations of Intent of duly registered Parliamentary Sectoral Organizations.

In determining whether to reopen the filing period, the COMELEC shall consider, among others, the need to ensure adequate notice to stakeholders, sufficient time for verification and accreditation of sectoral organizations, and the logistical and administrative requirements for the conduct of sectoral assemblies.

The COMELEC shall promulgate the necessary rules and guidelines for the implementation of this section.

SECTION 6. All qualified voters, who have been registered in the permanent list in a precinct of the city or municipality within the BARMM based on the latest Election Registration Board hearing shall be entitled to vote in the BARMM Parliamentary Election.

SECTION 7. For purposes of the September 28, 2026 BARMM Parliamentary Election, the winning candidates shall assume office on December 1, 2026. In the succeeding elections, the winning candidates shall assume office not later than thirty (30) days from the date of the BARMM Parliamentary Election.

SECTION 8. Any amount obligated prior to the resetting of the Bangsamoro Election shall remain valid.

The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the COMELEC or any available appropriations as may be identified by the DBM subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, subject to the usual budget preparation process.

SECTION 9. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. Republic Act No. 12123 is hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,