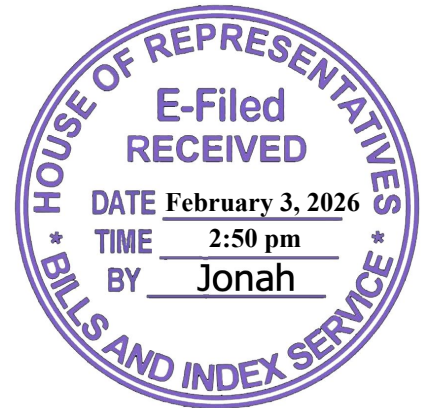




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7585

Introduced by Rep. SANCHO FERNANDO “ANDO” F. OAMINAL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the authorized campaign expenditures of candidates and political parties to a more realistic level in order to make more accurate, truthful and appropriate the statement of contributions and expenditures (SOCE) that they will submit to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

Republic Act No. 7166¹ explicitly provides limitations upon the expenses of candidates and of political parties as follows:

For President and Vice-President - Ten pesos (P10.00); **for other candidates**, Three pesos (P3.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his candidacy; and **for a candidate without any political party and without support from any political party** - Five pesos (P5.00) for every such voter; and

For political parties - Five pesos (P5.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

It is worthy to consider that the purchasing power of the Philippine peso has continuously diminished from the time Republic Act No. 7166 took effect more than three (3) decades ago or in 1991 to be exact up to the present time due to numerous economic factors.

¹ AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Thus, there is a need therefore, considering the time and economic factors, to increase the authorized campaign expenditures for the positions of President and Vice-President from P10.00 to P50.00, for other candidates from P3.00 to P20.00 and for political parties from P5.00 to P25.00, if only to update the herein amounts to its present value.

The loud and growing clamor to adjust the poll spending cap did not only come from the candidates, political parties and COMELEC but even from international election observers, in fact, Pro-democracy non-government organization (NGO), Carter Center, which was one of international observers during the 2016 National and Local Elections noted the "unrealistically low" spending limits for candidates and political parties in the country. The Center, in its report, viewed that "All mission interlocutors agree that the spending limits imposed on election campaigns are unrealistically low, and that candidates are in effect forced to file false declarations of expenses as a result."

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



SANCHO FERNANDO "ANDO" F. OAMINAL

Representative

2nd District, Misamis Occidental

²The Carter Center (2016). Limited Election Observation Mission to the Philippines June 2016 Statement.
https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/news/peace_publications/election_reports/philippines-june-2016-election-statement.pdf



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AN ACT
INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES
AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL
REFORMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166 entitled “AN ACT PROVIDING
FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR
ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 13. Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties.

- The aggregate amount that a candidate or registered political party may
spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

For candidates. - [Ten] **FIFTY** pesos [(10.00)] **(P50.00)** for President
and Vice-President; and for other candidates, [Three] **TWENTY** pesos
[(P3.00)] **(P20.00)** for every voter currently registered in the constituency
where he filed his candidacy; Provided, That a candidate without any political

party and without support from any political party may be allowed to spend [Five] **TWENTY-FIVE** pesos [(P5.00)] **(P25.00)** for every such voter; and

For political parties. - [Five] **TWENTY-FIVE** pesos [(5.00)] **(P25.00)** for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission shall not be subject to the payment of any gift tax."

SEC. 2. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this amendment.

SEC. 3. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC . 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) day s after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,