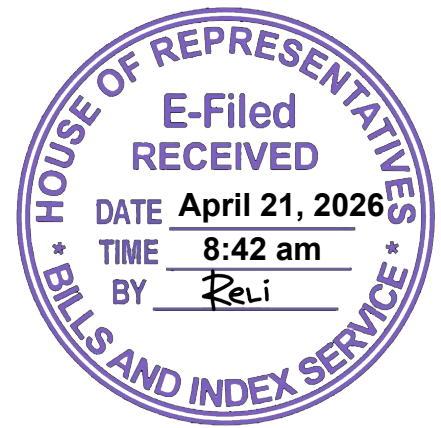


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8895

Introduced by **HON. MARLO C. BANCORO**
First District, Zamboanga Sibugay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections are vital mechanisms in strengthening grassroots democracy and ensuring that leadership at the community level remains responsive and representative. However, extraordinary circumstances necessitate prudent and responsive legislative action.

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 12232 entitled, “An Act Setting the Term of Office of Barangay Officials and Members of the Sangguniang Kabataan, And For Other Purposes”, postponing the November 2026 Barangay and SK Elections to the second Monday of May 2027. Under Republic Act No. 12232, the next Barangay and SK elections are scheduled on the first Monday of November 2026 and every four (4) years thereafter. While this fixed schedule aims to promote stability and predictability in the electoral process, current circumstances call for a more responsive approach.

The proposed postponement is anchored on the urgent need for barangay officials to fully devote their time, attention, and resources to addressing the pressing global crisis currently affecting their constituents, particularly the adverse effects of rising oil prices. Instead of being occupied with election preparations and political activities, local officials can concentrate on implementing measures to mitigate the impact of fuel cost increases, such as ensuring the delivery of basic services, stabilizing local transport conditions, and extending assistance to vulnerable sectors.

Moreover, the conduct of elections entails significant public expenditure. In light of the ongoing crisis, it is both practical and necessary to realign government resources toward programs, projects, and interventions that directly respond to the needs of affected communities. Deferring the elections will allow the government to utilize funds more effectively to mitigate the impact of the crisis and provide timely assistance to the public.

Further, the move to have the elections transferred to the second Monday of May, and thereafter, addresses concerns regarding the potential disenfranchisement of the electorate as the first Monday of November setting may, at times, coincide with one of the most solemn holidays in the Philippines - All Soul's Day. During this period, many Filipinos travel to various locations to visit and pay respects to their deceased loved ones, which place may not necessarily correspond with their respective place of voter registration. This would lead to unnecessary strain not only on voters but also on all stakeholders involved in the electoral process. A clear example of this concern is the current year, in which the first Monday of November falls precisely on November 2, thereby coinciding with the said holiday.

Moving, then, the elections to the second Monday of May and thereafter would respect the solemnity of the observance of All Soul's Day at the same time give allowance for the voters to go to their polling places to exercise their right to choose their leaders and take part in this important democratic process.

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



ATTY. MARLO C. BANCORO

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8895

Introduced by **HON. MARLO C. BANCORO**
First District, Zamboanga Sibugay

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12232 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT
SETTING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS
OF THE SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 12232 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 2. *Date of Election.* – The next regular barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections shall be held on the [first Monday of November 2026] **ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2027** and every four (4) years thereafter.

SEC. 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 12232 is further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. *Assumption of Office.* – The term of office of barangay officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan elected after the effectivity of this Act shall commence **AT NOON OF JUNE 30** [on the first day of December] next following their election.

SEC. 3. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 12232 is further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. *Transitory Provision.* – Incumbent elective barangay officials serving their third consecutive term in the same position shall not be eligible to run for the same position in the [November 2026] **MAY 2027** Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections.

SEC. 4. *Hold-Over.* – All incumbent barangay officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan shall remain in office unless sooner removed or suspended for cause until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) under the General Appropriations Act and/or supplementary appropriations thereafter.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – This Act repeals Republic Act No. 12232 and all other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,