



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10901



Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) implements measures for vulnerable sectors, including persons with disabilities, senior citizens, indigenous peoples, persons deprived of liberty, women, and youth, during voter registration and election-day voting processes. These measures include satellite voter registration sites, early voting hours, special voting centers and polling places.

The effective exercise of the right to vote and to be elected to public office; requires a holistic and systematic approach. This approach demands supplementary evaluation of identified vulnerable sectors and consequent barriers in all electoral processes and procedures. A more comprehensive set of affirmative measures and reasonable accommodations is likewise envisioned following this approach. The institutionalization of a permanent Vulnerable Sectors Office is intended to complement the shift in approach, and support the sustained and proactive engagement of the Commission with the vulnerable sectors and their members.

Therefore, this proposed measure aims to reinforce the inclusion of vulnerable sectors in the Philippine electoral process; enhance the accessibility of the process; and increase its integrity. The establishment of a Vulnerable Sectors Office within the Commission will enable it to systematically consider the concerns of vulnerable sectors when designing and implementing processes related to voter registration, voting, voter education, and participation in public office. Furthermore, it provides a continuous channel for the Commission to examine current practices and suggest additional legislative or regulatory measures where there is evidence that present legislation and/or regulations fail to sufficiently mitigate identified barriers.

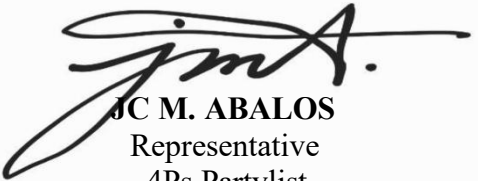
The proposed office does not aim to substitute existing measures, but instead to support and build upon them. As long as the Commission maintains up-to-date knowledge of the barriers experienced by vulnerable sectors; conducts accessibility assessments; coordinates with government agencies and NGOs; and develops reasonable accommodations, the Commission will shift from addressing measures for each individual election to adopting a more comprehensive and systematic approach toward making electoral processes accessible. An institutionally based approach is consistent with the idea that both the right to vote and the right to be elected must be implemented in practice, and not simply recognized in law.

The Commission on Elections has also taken steps to meet the accessibility requirements of vulnerable-sector voters. On June 25, 2026, COMELEC issued Resolution No. 11238 regarding vulnerable-sector voters in relation to the 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections¹. The fact that COMELEC issued a specific resolution in 2026 demonstrates that there continues to be an operational need to identify and address the unique circumstances of vulnerable voters. Therefore, a permanent Vulnerable Sectors Office would establish a structural mechanism through which such measures could be continuously developed, coordinated, monitored, and enhanced.

Additionally, the 2025 election results demonstrate the large-scale participation of voters across different age groups. Voter registration and voting statistics by age bracket provided by COMELEC indicate that vulnerable and potentially underserved populations comprise a considerable portion of the electorate. Thus, ensuring that these voters are able to fully participate in the electoral process is not simply a matter of providing individual accommodations, but is also important in protecting equitable and meaningful participation in the electoral process.

The continuing need for such measures is evident in recent electoral data. In the 2025 National and Local Elections, the COMELEC reported 69,673,653 registered voters, 57,350,968 of whom cast ballots, representing a total voter turnout of 82.20%². This high level of participation underscores the importance of ensuring that electoral processes are accessible to all voters, particularly those who experience physical, informational, transportation, or procedural barriers.

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



JC M. ABALOS
Representative
4Ps Partylist

¹ *Official COMELEC website :: Commission on elections.* COMELEC. (n.d.).
<https://www.comelec.gov.ph/?r=2026BSKE%2FResolutions%2Fres11238>

² *Official COMELEC website :: Commission on elections.* COMELEC. (n.d.-a). <https://www.comelec.gov.ph/?r=2025NLE%2FStatistics>



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**AN ACT ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE
AND TO BE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF VULNERABLE
SECTORS, INSTITUTIONALIZING THE VULNERABLE SECTORS OFFICE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Vulnerable Sectors Electoral
2 Accessibility Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall safeguard the right and opportunity of
5 every citizen to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections by universal and equal suffrage.
6 Towards this end, the State shall set standards that will ensure that members of vulnerable sectors
7 can effectively exercise their right to vote and be elected to public office.

8
9 **SEC. 3. *Principles of the Right to Vote and to Be Elected to Public Office.*** – The right to
10 vote and to be elected to public office, of members of vulnerable groups shall be safeguarded
11 through the following principles:

- 12
13 a) **Non-discrimination.** – The exercise of the right to vote and to be elected to public office
14 shall be without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, gender, language,
15 religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, birth, disability,
16 geographical location, or other status. The denial of reasonable accommodation shall
17 constitute a violation of the principle of non-discrimination.
- 18 b) **Inclusion and Accessibility.** – The design and implementation of systems, procedures,
19 and mechanisms relating to the exercise of the right to vote and to be elected to public
20 office shall encompass affirmative measures and reasonable accommodations to
21 eliminate barriers which hinder the effective exercise of the right.
22

1 **SEC. 4. Identification of Vulnerable Sectors.** – The Commission on Elections shall identify
2 and list vulnerable sectors and barriers, individual or systemic, affecting or hindering the exercise
3 of the right to vote and to be elected to public office: Provided that the vulnerable sectors shall
4 include persons with disabilities, senior citizens, indigenous peoples, persons deprived of liberty,
5 and pregnant women relative to the right to vote: Provided further that the vulnerable sectors shall
6 include persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons deprived of liberty, women, and
7 youth relative to the right to be elected to public office.

8
9 The Commission shall maintain an updated record of vulnerable sector members who are
10 registered voters. The processing of personal information of vulnerable sector members in the
11 maintenance of the updated record and any access thereto shall be subject to compliance with the
12 provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

13
14 **SEC. 5. Development of Affirmative Measures and Reasonable Accommodations.** – The
15 Commission shall develop, coordinate, and implement affirmative measures and reasonable
16 accommodations to eliminate barriers to the exercise of the right to vote and to be elected to public
17 office of vulnerable sectors and their members: Provided that these shall include:

- 18
19 a) Special voting centers and polling places, early voting mechanisms, and assistors;
20 b) Accessible and alternative-format voter education materials and mandatory provision
21 of assistive devices at polling places;
22 c) Sensitivity and capacity training for electoral officials and other relevant government
23 agencies' officials performing electoral-related functions;
24 d) System of transportation to and from voting centers to persons with disabilities, senior
25 citizens, indigenous peoples, and pregnant women on the day of the elections in
26 partnership with relevant government agencies, including the Commission on Human
27 Rights, National Council on Disability Affairs, National Commission of Senior
28 Citizens, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Philippine Commission on
29 Women, Department of Transportation, Department of the Interior and Local
30 Government, and civil society organizations; and
31 e) Structural modifications and infrastructure adjustments to spaces and facilities utilized
32 for electoral processes in partnership with relevant government agencies, including the
33 Commission on Human Rights, National Council on Disability Affairs, National
34 Commission of Senior Citizens, Philippine Commission on Women Department of
35 Education, Department of Public Works and Highways, and civil society organizations.

36
37 In the development, coordination, and implementation of affirmative measures and
38 reasonable accommodations, the Commission shall design and conduct accessibility audits.

39
40 The mandate of the Commission to develop, coordinate, and implement affirmative
41 measures and reasonable accommodations in this provision shall not diminish, restrict, or impair
42 existing rights and privileges of vulnerable sectors and their members under applicable laws.

43
44 When the mandate to develop, coordinate, and implement affirmative measures and
45 reasonable accommodations is expressly restricted by existing laws, the Commission shall submit
46 and advocate for legislative proposals to Congress as compliance with its mandate.

47
48 **SEC. 6. Institutionalization of a Vulnerable Sectors Office.** – The Vulnerable Sectors
49 Office is established under the Commission to supervise the implementation of this Act: Provided
50 that its personnel shall be drawn from the existing staffing pattern of the Commission.

1 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Commission on Elections shall,
2 within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the implementing rules and
3 regulations in consultation with the relevant government agencies, including the Commission on
4 Human Rights, National Council on Disability Affairs, National Commission of Senior Citizens,
5 National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau
6 of Corrections, Philippine Commission on Women, National Youth Commission, Philippine
7 Statistics Authority, and civil society organizations.

8
9 **SEC. 8. *Construction in favor of the Rights of Vulnerable Sectors and Members.*** – All
10 doubts in the implementation and interpretation of this Act, including its implementing rules and
11 regulations, shall be resolved in favor of the rights of vulnerable sectors and members.

12
13 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** – The initial funding of this Act shall be charged against the
14 available appropriations of the Commission. Thereafter, such amounts may be necessary for the
15 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

16
17 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared
18 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to
19 be in full force and effect.

20
21 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions,
22 rules and regulations, other issuances, and parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions
23 of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

24
25 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication
26 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

27
28 Approved,