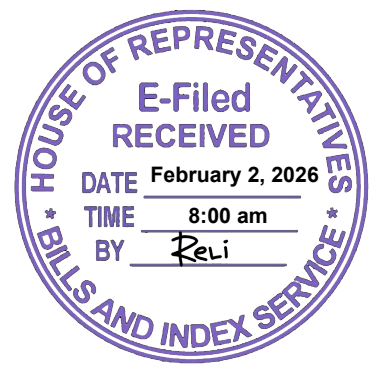


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 83

Submitted by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms on **February 2, 2026.**

Re: House Bill No. **7487**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 775, 1133, 3283, and 5787

Sponsors: Representatives Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar and Ziaur-Rahman "Zia" Alonto Adiong

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, to which were referred House Bill No. 775, introduced by Representative Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, entitled:

"AN ACT MODIFYING THE GROUNDS FOR SUBSTITUTION OF CANDIDATES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 77 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES";

House Bill No. 1133, introduced by Rep. Alexander Ty Pimentel, entitled:

"AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SUBSTITUTION OF CANDIDATES BY REASON OF WITHDRAWAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 69, 77 AND 262 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE, AS AMENDED";

House Bill No. 3283, introduced by Rep. Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., entitled:

"AN ACT MODIFYING THE GROUNDS FOR SUBSTITUTION OF CANDIDATES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 77 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES";

and House Bill No. 5787, introduced by Rep. Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, entitled:

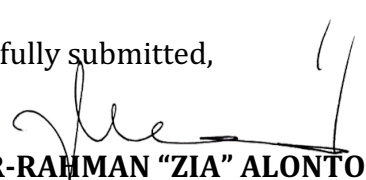
"AN ACT MODIFYING THE GROUNDS FOR SUBSTITUTION OF CANDIDATES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 77 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **7487**, entitled:

“AN ACT MODIFYING THE GROUNDS FOR SUBSTITUTION OF CANDIDATES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 77 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES””

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 775, 1133, 3283, and 5787 with Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Alexander Ty Pimentel, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Ziaur-Rahman “Zia” Alonto Adiong, King Collantes, Ma. Rene Ann Lourdes G. Matibag, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Renee Louise M. Co, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Edgar R. Erice, and Leila M. De Lima, as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



ZIAUR-RAHMAN “ZIA” ALONTO ADIONG

Chairperson

Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7487

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 775, 1133, 3283 and 5787)

Introduced by Representatives

Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Alexander Ty Pimentel, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Ziaur-Rahman “Zia” Alonto Adiong, King Collantes, Ma. Rene Ann Lourdes G. Matibag, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Renee Louise M. Co, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Edgar R. Erice, and Leila M. De Lima

AN ACT

**MODIFYING THE GROUNDS FOR SUBSTITUTION OF CANDIDATES, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 77 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”**

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

SECTION 1. Section 77 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise known as the “Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 77. Candidates in case of death, **PERMANENT INCAPACITY, LEGAL INCAPACITY OR** disqualification [or withdrawal of another]. – If after the last day for the filing of certificates of candidacy, an official candidate of a registered or accredited political party dies, [withdraws] **BECOMES PERMANENTLY OR LEGALLY INCAPACITATED**, or is disqualified for any cause, only a person belonging to, and certified by, the same political party may file a certificate of candidacy to replace the candidate who died, [withdrew] **BECAME PERMANENTLY OR LEGALLY INCAPACITATED**, or was disqualified. The substitute candidate nominated by the political party concerned may file [his] **THE** certificate of candidacy for the office affected in accordance with the preceding sections not later than mid-day of the day of the election. If the death, [withdrawal] **PERMANENT INCAPACITY, LEGAL INCAPACITY**, or disqualification should occur between the day before the election and mid-day of election day, said certificate may be filed with any [board of election inspectors] **ELECTORAL BOARD** in the political subdivision where [he] **ONE** is a candidate, or, in the case of candidates to be voted for by the entire electorate of the country, with the Commission.

PERMANENT INCAPACITY AS USED HEREIN SHALL REFER TO MENTAL OR PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT, OR BOTH, BASED ON A VERIFIED MEDICAL REPORT OF A LICENSED PHYSICIAN, RENDERING THE CANDIDATE UNABLE TO PERFORM THE ELECTED POSITION’S DUTIES, AND WHICH APPEARS REASONABLY CERTAIN TO CONTINUE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL

1 **IMPROVEMENT UNTIL THE TERM OF OFFICE WHICH THE CANDIDATE**
2 **SEEKS TO BE ELECTED FOR.”**

3
4 **LEGAL INCAPACITY, AS USED HEREIN, SHALL REFER TO THE**
5 **DISQUALIFICATION OR DISABILITY THAT PREVENTS A PERSON FROM**
6 **EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO VOTE OR BE VOTED UPON TO PUBLIC OFFICE**
7 **ARISING PRIMARILY FROM JUDICIAL DECLARATION OR FINAL**
8 **CONVICTION OF DISQUALIFYING CRIMES OR AFTER LEGAL PROHIBITIONS**
9 **EXPRESSLY PROVIDED UNDER THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OR ANY**
10 **APPLICABLE STATUTE.**

11
12 **SEC. 2.** Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Elections shall,
13 upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, issue the rules and regulations to
14 implement the provisions of this Act.

15
16 **SEC. 3.** If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining
17 parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

18
19 **SEC. 4.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, other issuances
20 and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
21 repealed or modified accordingly.

22
23 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or
24 in a newspaper of general circulation.

25
26 *Approved,*

House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 7487

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 775, 1133, 3283, and 5787)

**“AN ACT MODIFYING THE GROUNDS FOR SUBSTITUTION OF CANDIDATES,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 77 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES””**

Introduced by Representatives:

Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Alexander Ty Pimentel, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Ziaur-Rahman “Zia” Alonto Adiong, King Collantes, Ma. Rene Ann Lourdes G. Matibag, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Renee Louise M. Co, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Edgar R. Erice, and Leila M. De Lima

*Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS***

*Committee Chairperson: **ZIAUR-RAHMAN “ZIA” ALONTO ADIONG***

OBJECTIVES:

- To prevent the mockery of the electoral system by removing withdrawal of certificate of candidacy as a ground for substitution of candidates by political parties that field candidates merely as placeholders just to comply with the electoral deadline of filing for candidacy;
- To strengthen the electoral system by including permanent and legal incapacity as additional ground for substitution of candidates in order to ensure that only those who are put in front of the public during the campaign will be the ones to serve the people should they be elected.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Removes withdrawal as ground for substitution of candidates;
- Adds and defines ‘permanent incapacity’ as a ground for substitution of candidates

RELATED LAW:

- Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise known as the “Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines”