

[ **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 599, March 28, 1951** ]

**AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE REVISED  
ELECTION CODE**

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

SECTION 1. Sections fifty-seven, fifty-eight, sixty-two and sixty-three of the Revised Election Code are amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 57. *Election precincts to be established.*-The unit of territory for the purpose of voting is the election precinct, and every municipality or municipal district shall have at least one.

The Commission on Elections shall fix ninety days before the day of the election the limits of all the election precincts."

"SEC. 58. *Arrangement of election precincts.*-(a) The election precinct shall be so arranged that no precinct shall have more than two hundred voters, and each shall comprise, as far as practicable contiguous and compact territory.

(b) When it appears that an election precinct contains more than two hundred voters, the Commission on Elections shall make such adjustment or new division as may be necessary.

(c) A municipality or a municipal district which has been merged with another municipality shall constitute at least one election precinct, if the distance between the remotest barrio of the merged municipality or district and the nearest polling place of the municipality to which it has been merged shall, by the shortest road, exceed five kilometers.

(d) An island or group of islands having one hundred and fifty or more voters shall constitute a precinct."

"SEC. 62. *Designation of polling places.*-At least seventy days before each regular election, the Commission on Elections shall designate in each election precinct a place as provided in this Code where the meetings of the board of inspectors for registration and the election shall be held."

"SEC. 63. *Requirements for polling places.*-Each polling place shall be, as far as practicable, a ground floor hall of sufficient size to admit and comfortably accommodate forty voters at one time outside the guard rail for the board of inspectors. The polling place shall be located as centrally as possible with respect to the residence of the voters of the precinct, but it may be located also in the poblacion of the municipality upon petition of the majority of the voters of the precinct or by agreement of all the

political parties or by resolution of the Commission on Elections. A public building having the foregoing requirements shall be preferred."

SEC. 2. Sections seventy-five, seventy-six, ninety-four, ninety-five and one hundred of the same Code are amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 75. *Appointment of election inspectors and poll clerks.*-Fifty days immediately prior to the date of a regular election, the Commission on Elections shall, directly or through its duly authorized provincial representatives, appoint a board of election inspectors for each election precinct, to, be composed of a chairman and two inspectors and a poll clerk, who shall hold office until their successors are appointed for the next regular election, unless they are sooner relieved. The chairman and his substitute shall be appointed by the Commission on Elections. Whenever in this Code mention is made of the board of inspectors or of members of the board of inspectors it shall be understood to include the poll clerk."

"SEC. 76. *Representation of parties in the board of inspectors.*-The appointment of one inspector and his substitute shall be proposed by the party presenting candidates for election which polled the largest number of votes in the next preceding presidential election and the other inspector and his substitute shall be proposed by the party also presenting candidates for election which polled the next largest number of votes in the Philippines. The Commission on Elections shall appoint the poll clerks in each election precinct, who shall be public school teachers. The party affiliation of the candidates voted for shall be determined from their certificates of candidacy. The national directorates of political parties shall choose their respective representatives in each legislative district, who shall submit in writing, at least ten days before the date fixed for the appointment of the board of election inspectors, the names and addresses of the persons whom they propose to be appointed as election inspectors. If said representatives shall fail to propose the names of persons to be appointed as election inspectors, or if no political party is entitled to propose the appointment of either inspectors, the Commission shall, at its discretion, choose said inspectors and their substitutes."

"SEC. 94. *Pay for inspectors and poll clerks.*-Every inspector and poll clerk shall be entitled to a per diem of five pesos for every day of actual service in the meetings of the board, and for the day of the election they shall receive ten pesos."

"SEC. 95. *Permanent list of voters every twelve years.*- There shall be in each municipality or municipal district a permanent list of voters which shall be completely renewed every twelve years. A new list of voters shall be prepared for the elections which will be held in nineteen hundred and fifty-one and said list with such additions, cancellations, and corrections as may be proper shall constitute the permanent list of voters until its renewal in nineteen hundred and sixty-three."

"SEC. 100. *Preparation of the permanent list of voters.*- For the preparation of the permanent list of voters in nineteen hundred and fifty-

one and every twelve years thereafter, the board of inspectors of each election precinct shall hold six meetings in the place designated as polling place on the seventh Friday, seventh Saturday, sixth Friday, sixth Saturday, fifth Friday, and fifth Saturday next preceding the date of the regular election to be held. At these meetings' the board shall prepare as provided in this Code eight copies of the list of voters of the precinct wherein it shall register the additional electors applying for registration."

SEC. 3. Sections one hundred and twenty-four, one hundred and twenty-six, one hundred and thirty-four, one hundred and thirty-five, one hundred and thirty-seven, one hundred and forty-five, one hundred and forty-six, one hundred and forty-eight, one hundred and fifty, one hundred and sixty and one hundred and sixty-four of the Revised Election Code are amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 124. *Official ballots.*-Ballots for national and local offices shall be uniform throughout the Philippines and shall be provided at public expense. Said ballots shall be in the shape of a strip with stubs and coupons containing the detachable numbers of the ballots, and shall bear at the top on the middle portion thereof the coat of arms of the Republic of the Philippines, and the words 'Official Ballot,' the name of the city or of the municipality and province in which the election is held, the date of the election, and the following notice: 'Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive mark in any part of this ballot.' Each ballot shall contain the names of all offices to be voted for in the election, allowing, opposite the name of each office, sufficient space or spaces within which the voter may write the name or names of the individual candidate voted by him.

There shall not be anything on the reverse side of the ballot. There shall be in the coupon a space for the thumb-mark of the voter.

Ballots in municipalities and municipal districts where Arabic is of general use shall have each of the titles of offices to be voted printed in Arabic in addition to and immediately below the. English title."

"SEC. 126. *Arrangement of the official ballots.*-The official ballots shall be bound in separate books of one hundred ballots each. Each ballot shall be joined by a perforated line to a stub numbered consecutively, beginning with number one in each municipality. Each ballot shall also have at its bottom a detachable coupon bearing the same number of the stub. Each book of ballots shall bear on its cover the name of the municipality in which the ballots are to be used and the numbers of the ballots contained therein, and shall be numbered consecutively from number one in each municipality. The Director of Printing, the provincial treasurer and the municipal treasurer shall respectively keep a record of the ballots furnished to the various provinces, cities, municipalities, municipal districts and election precincts."

"SEC. 134. *Manner of obtaining ballots.*-The voter shall approach one of the inspectors or the poll clerk and shall give him his name and address together with other data concerning his person which appear in the registry list and which may be asked of him by any member of the board