

[Commonwealth Act No. 657, June 21, 1941]

AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Philippines:

SECTION 1. The Commission on Elections created under Commonwealth Act Numbered Six hundred and seven is organized and converted into the Commission on Elections provided for in Article Ten of the Constitution of the Philippines. The present members of the Commission on Elections shall continue to act as such until their successors shall have been duly appointed and qualified.

The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Two members of the Commission shall constitute a "quorum" for the transaction of business. The Concurrence of two members shall be necessary for the pronouncement or issuance of a decision, order, or ruling.

SEC. 2. The Commission shall have a secretary who shall receive a salary of fifty-one hundred pesos *per annum*, and such other subordinate officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of its functions and duties, all of whom shall be appointed by the Commission in accordance with the Civil Service Law and Rules.

The secretary of the Commission, under the direction of the chairman, shall have charge of the administrative business of the Commission and shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Commission. He shall be the recorder of the proceedings of the Commission and the custodian of its records, documents, and papers and shall be responsible therefor to the Commission.

SEC. 3. The Commission shall, in addition to the powers and functions conferred upon it by the Constitution, have direct and immediate supervision over provincial, municipal, and city officials designated by law to perform duties relative to the conduct of elections. It may suspend any of said officials who shall fail to comply with its instructions, orders, decisions, or rulings and appoint their temporary substitutes and, upon recommendation of the Commission, the President of the Philippines may remove any or all such officials who shall be found guilty of nonfeasance, malfeasance, or misfeasance in connection with the performance of their duties relative to the conduct of elections.

SEC. 4. The Commission shall decide all administrative questions relative to the number and location of polling places.

No polling place shall be located in a building within the property or under the control of a private entity, or of which a candidate, or a person who is related to a candidate within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity, or an officer of the Government, is the owner, lessee, or occupant.

SEC. 5. Fifty days immediately prior to the date of regular election, the Commission on Elections shall, directly or through its authorized provincial representatives, appoint a board of election inspectors for each election precinct, to be composed of three inspectors and a poll clerk, who shall hold office until their successors are