

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3778**



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Introduced by Lone District of Agusan del Norte Representative  
**HON. DALE B. CORVERA**

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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF AUTHORIZED ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXPENSES FOR CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”, AS AMENDED**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In a study about campaign expenditure and winning probability (Le, Onur, Sarwar and Yalcin, 2024)<sup>1</sup>, it was found that there is a positive and statistically significant relationship between campaign expenditure, campaign contributions and winning probability. Campaign spending plays a crucial role in shaping votes through information dissemination, voter motivation, and persuasion, more especially in the case of a neophyte going against an incumbent considered as institution in their political landscape.

Unfortunately, campaign spending is regulated by Republic Act No. 7166 which was enacted on 26 November 1991. More than three decades have passed but the amount of authorized election campaign expenses for candidates and political parties remained the same as provided in Section 13, to wit:

**Section 13.** *Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties.* - The aggregate amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

(a) For candidates. - Ten pesos (P10.00) for President and Vice-President; and for other candidates Three Pesos (P3.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy: Provided, That a candidate without any political party and without support from any political party may be allowed to spend Five Pesos (P5.00) for every such voter; and

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<sup>1</sup> Le, T., Onur, I., Sarwar, R., & Yalcin, E. (2024). Money in Politics: How Does It Affect Election Outcomes? *SAGE Open*, 14(4). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440241279659> (Original work published 2024) (Accessed: 08 August 2025).

(b) For political parties. - Five pesos (P5.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

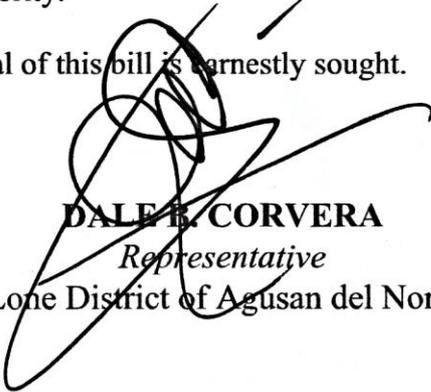
Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission shall not be subject to the payment of any gift tax.”

At this modern day and age, the costs of running for office have risen significantly due to various factors, including the emergence of social platforms, expansion of digital media and higher prices of traditional campaign materials. This proposed legislation recognizes that from 1991, when RA 7166 was enacted, until today, prices have increased by at least four times. Thus, this bill proposes for an across-the-board increase of four times the amount stated under Section 13 of RA 7166.

This representation is hopeful that the increased cap for election campaign expenses will not only promote transparency among political candidates, but also level the playing field among those who aspire to serve their respective constituencies.

This bill also recognizes that the prices of goods and services are constantly moving due to inflation. For this reason, it authorizes the Commission on Election to adjust the amount of authorized campaign expenses per registered voter as the circumstances deem fit, in consultation with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Department of Economy, Planning and Development and the Philippine Statistics Authority.

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



**DALE B. CORVERA**  
*Representative*  
Lone District of Agusan del Norte

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. *Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties.* - The aggregate amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

- (a) For candidates. – [Ten] **FIFTY** pesos [(P10.00)] **(P50.00)** for President and Vice-President; and for other candidates [Three] Pesos **FIFTEEN** [(P3.00)] **(P15.00)** for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his certificate of candidacy: Provided, That a candidate without any political party and without support from any political party may be allowed to spend [Five] **TWENTY FIVE** Pesos [(P5.00)] **(P25.00)** for every such voter; and
- (b) For political parties. – [Five] **FIFTEEN** pesos [(P5.00)] **(P15.00)** for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission shall not be subject to the payment of any [gift] **DONOR’S** tax.”

**THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY, MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENSES PER REGISTERED VOTER AS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT BASED ON THE ENSUING NATIONAL INFLATION RATE AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.**

**SEC. 2.** The Commission on Elections shall, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

**SEC. 3.** If, for any reason, any section, clause, or provision of this Act is declared illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

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

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

*Approved,*