

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6735, August 04, 1989]

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF INITIATIVE AND
REFERENDUM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

I.- General Provisions

SECTION 1. *Title*.—This act shall be known as "The Initiative and Referendum Act".

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy*.—The power of the people under a system of initiative and referendum to directly propose, enact, approve or reject, in whole or in part, the Constitution, laws, ordinances, or resolutions passed by any legislative body upon compliance with the requirements of this Act is hereby affirmed, recognized and guaranteed.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms*.—For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. "Initiative" is the power of the people to propose amendments to the Constitution or to propose and enact legislations through an election called for the purpose.

There are three (3) systems of initiative, namely:

- a.1 Initiative on the Constitution which refers to a petition proposing amendments to the Constitution;
- a.2 Initiative on statutes which refers to a petition proposing to enact a national legislation; and
- a.3 Initiative on local legislation which refers to a petition proposing to enact a regional, provincial, city, municipal, or barangay law, resolution or ordinance.
- b. "Indirect initiative" is exercise of initiative by the people through a proposition sent to Congress or the local legislative body for action.
- c. "Referendum" is the power of the electorate to approve or reject a legislation through an election called for the purpose. It may be of two classes, namely:
 - c.1 Referendum on statutes which refers to a petition to approve or reject an act or law, or part thereof, passed by Congress; and

c.2 Referendum on local law which refers to a petition to approve or reject a law, resolution or ordinance enacted by regional assemblies and local legislative bodies.

d. "Proposition" is the measure proposed by the voters.

e. "Plebiscite" is the electoral process by which an initiative on the Constitution is approved or rejected by the people.

f. "Petition" is the written instrument containing the proposition and the required number of signatories. It shall be in a form to be determined by and submitted to the Commission on Elections, hereinafter referred to as the Commission.

g. "Local government units" refers to provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays.

h. "Local legislative bodies" refers to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panglungsod, Sangguniang Bayan, and Sangguniang Nayan.

i. "Local executives" refers to the Provincial Governors, City or Municipal Mayors and Punong Barangay as the case may be.

SEC. 4. *Who May Exercise.*—The power of initiative and referendum may be exercised by all registered voters of the country, autonomous regions, provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays.

SEC. 5. *Requirements.*—(a) To exercise the power of initiative or referendum, at least ten per centum (10%) of the total number of the registered voters, of which every legislative district is represented by at least three *per centum* (3%) of the registered voters thereof, shall sign a petition for the purpose and register the same with the Commission.

(b) A petition for an initiative on the 1987 Constitution must have at least twelve per centum (12%) of the total number of registered voters as signatories, of which every legislative district, must be represented by at least three *per centum* (3%) of the registered voters therein. Initiative on the Constitution may be exercised only after five (5) years from the ratification of the 1987 Constitution and only once every five (5) years thereafter.

(e) The petition shall state the following:

c.1 contents or text of the proposed law sought to be enacted, approved or rejected, amended or repealed, as the case may be;

c.2 the proposition;

c.3 the reason or reasons therefor;

c.4 that it is not one of the exceptions provided herein;

c.5 signatures of the petitioners or registered voters; and

c.6 an abstract or summary proposition in not more than one hundred (100) words which shall be legibly written or printed at the top of every page of the petition.

(d) A referendum or initiative affecting a law, resolution or ordinance passed by the legislative assembly of an autonomous region, province or city is deemed validly initiated if the petition therefor is signed by at least ten per centum (10%) of the registered voters in the province or city, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three *per centum* (3%) of the registered voters therein: *Provided, however, That if the province or city is composed only of one legislative district, then at least each municipality in a province or each barangay in a city should be represented by at least three per centum (3%) of the registered voters therein.*

(e) A referendum or initiative on an ordinance passed in a municipality shall be deemed validly initiated if the petition therefor is signed by at least ten *per centum* (10%) of the registered voters in the municipality, of which every barangay is represented by at least three *per centum* (3%) of the registered voters therein.

(f) A referendum or initiative on a barangay resolution or ordinance is deemed validly initiated if signed by at least ten per centum (10%) of the registered voters in said barangay.

SEC. 6. *Special Registration.*—The Commission on Elections shall set a special registration day at least three (3) weeks before a scheduled initiative or referendum.

SEC. 7. *Verification of Signatures.*—The Election Registrar shall verify the signatures on the basis of the registry list of voters, voters' affidavits and voters' identification cards used in the immediately preceding election.

II.-National Initiative and Referendum

SEC. 8. *Conduct and Date of Initiative or Referendum.*—The Commission shall call and supervise the conduct of initiative or referendum.

Within a period of thirty (30) days from receipt of the petition, the Commission shall, upon determining the sufficiency of the petition, publish the same in Filipino and English at least twice in newspapers of general and local circulation and set the date of the initiative or referendum which shall not be earlier than forty-five (45) days but not later than ninety (90) days from the determination by the Commission of the sufficiency of the petition.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity of Initiative or Referendum Proposition.*—

- a. The proposition for the enactment, approval, amendment or rejection of a national law shall be submitted to and approved by a majority of the votes cast by all the registered voters of the Philippines.

If, as certified to by the Commission, the proposition is approved by a majority of the votes cast, the national law proposed for enactment, approval, or amendment shall become effective fifteen (15) days following completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in