

Castelo proposes early voting for senior citizens, PWDs

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QUEZON City Second District Rep. Precious Hipolito-Castelo has filed House Bill (HB) 8756 that seeks an early voting period for senior citizens and persons with disability (PWDs) starting in the 2022 elections, citing the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“It is safe to assume that the pandemic will still be here during the election period. Thus, it is important for Congress and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to take measures to help health authorities prevent the spread of Covid-19 among voters and the population in general,” Hipolito-Castelo said, stressing that the elderly and PWDs are among the most vulnerable to Covid-19.

“They should be given the chance to cast their ballots without compromising their physical health and safety. Otherwise, thousands might just opt not to vote for fear of contracting the virus.”

HB 8756 mandates the Commission on Elections to schedule early voting for senior citizens and PWDs in predesignated venues that are easily accessible within seven working days before the elections. It also allows the Comelec to set up an online preregistration system for the sole purpose of estimating the number of voters who want to avail of the advanced voting option.

The expenses for early voting will be sourced from Comelec funds under the General Appropriations Act.