AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 32 OF R.A. NO. 7166
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE 1991 SYNCHRONIZED ELECTION LAW"

Republic Act. No. 7166 (The Synchronized Election Law of 1991) has, for its purpose, two laudable intentions: minimize election-related violence and to safeguard the sanctity of the ballot by prohibiting the carrying of firearms outside one's residence during the election period.

Section 32 of the same law, however, is all-encompassing and has resulted in the unduly restrictive measure of prohibiting even the licensing of firearms during the election period. This goes beyond the legislative intent of the abovementioned law.

This bill seeks to provide a reasonable remedy, by retaining the salient features of R.A. 7166 while amending Section 32 to save the affected sectors from its oppressive features.

LUI S R AY MUND "LRA Y" F. VILLA FUERTE, JR.
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8358

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 32 OF R.A. NO. 7166
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE 1991 SYNCHRONIZED ELECTION LAW"

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

SECTION 1. Section 32 of R.A. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 32. Who May Bear Firearms. — During the election period, no person shall bear, carry or transport firearms or other weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicles or public conveyances, even if licensed to [possess or] carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission. [The issuance of firearms licenses shall be suspended during the election period]. THE FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVE DIVISION (FED) OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO PROCESS AND APPROVE APPLICATION/S FOR LICENSE TO POSSESS FIREARM/S TO QUALIFIED APPLICANT/S, ISSUE THE CORRESPONDING LICENSE/S AND PERMIT/S TO TRANSPORT THE FIREARM/S SUBJECT THEREOF FROM ITS STORAGE FACILITIES TO THE PLACE SPECIFIED IN THE APPROVED LICENSE, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSPORT OF IMPORTED FIREARMS FROM THE WAREHOUSE OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS TO ITS STORAGE FACILITIES."

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause. — If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.
SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,