

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

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SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 625

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNET
VOTING FOR OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTERS, AND TO REVIEW
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9189 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING LAW**

WHEREAS, last February 9, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) launched its plans to conduct internet voting for Overseas Absentee Voters in Singapore, using the Spanish based company known as Scytl to provide the voting system;

WHEREAS, section 16.11 of Republic Act No. 9189, otherwise known as the Overseas Absentee Voting Law, allows the COMELEC to "*study the use of electronic mail, Internet, or other secured networks in the casting of votes, and submit a report thereon to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee;*"

WHEREAS, by the above provision, the COMELEC is merely enjoined to study internet voting and submit a report to the Joint Oversight Congressional Committee, which necessarily implies the need for legislation before internet voting may be authorized;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9189, also specifically provides in Section 16.4 that "*all accomplished ballots received shall be placed unopened inside sealed containers and kept in a secure place designated by the Commission,*" and in section 16.6 that "*his/her ballot shall not be counted if it is not inside the special envelope furnished him/her when it is cast;*"

WHEREAS, without the necessary implementing legislation, votes cast over the internet will not be counted as they will not comply with the requirement that the ballot be inside a special envelope, thereby disenfranchising the 26,000 Filipino voters in Singapore;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to call for an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of internet voting for overseas absentee voters, and to review the implementation of and re-examine the provisions of Republic Act No. 9189, otherwise known as the Overseas Absentee Voting Law.

Adopted.


RICHARD J. GORDON *kw*