HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH (17th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Concurrent Resolution No. 01

Introduced by
Davao del Norte First District Representative
Pantaleon D. Alvarez

RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO PROPOSE REVISIONS TO THE 1987 CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution provides three ways that any amendment to, or revision of, the Constitution may be proposed: by Congress upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members; by a constitutional convention; or by people's initiative and referendum;

WHEREAS, after nearly three decades after its approval, there is a felt need to revise the provisions of the

1987 Constitution in order to, among others, make the form of government more responsive to the needs of the nation;

WHEREAS, the best mode of revising the 1987 Constitution is through a constitutional convention the delegates to which who will propose revisions are directly elected precisely for that purpose, in order that the people-at-large may, from the very onset, be part of such changes

to the fundamental structure of our society as may thereby be introduced;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, in joint session assembled, by a vote of not less that two-thirds of all Members of each House voting separately, to call for a Constitutional Convention to propose revisions to the 1987 Constitution.

Section 1. The Constitutional Convention shall be composed of elected and appointed delegates. Each legislative district shall be represented by one (1) elected delegate, while the President of the Philippines shall appoint twenty (20) delegates, all of whom shall possess the same qualifications and none of the disqualifications of the Members of the House of Representatives.

Section 2. The election of the elected delegates shall be on ____________________ and shall be in accordance with the provisions of existing election laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 3. No Member of the House of Representatives or of the Philippine Senate at the time of the adoption of this Resolution shall run as a candidate for or be appointed as delegate to the Constitutional Convention. Any person holding public office or position, elective or appointive, including members of the Armed Forces and officers and employees of government-owned and -controlled corporations shall *ipso facto* be considered resigned upon the filing of his/her certificate of candidacy or upon his/her appointment as delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

Section 4. No candidate for delegate to the Constitutional Convention shall represent or allow himself or herself to be represented as a candidate of any political party, political group, party-list, political committee, civic, religious, professional or other organization or organized group of whatever nature. Any political party, political organization, political group, party-list, political committee of whatever nature, and any head of any executive department, bureau, or government office including government-owned and -controlled corporations, shall not nominate any candidate nor give aid or support, directly or indirectly, material or otherwise, for or against any candidate.

However, any political party, political group, party-list, political committee, civic, religious, professional or other organization or organized group of whatever nature may advocate constitutional reforms, programs, policies or proposals for the revision of the 1987 Constitution, subject to the limitations in the next preceding paragraph.

Section 5. The office of the Constitutional Convention delegate shall be honorary. A delegate shall not receive any salary or compensation but shall be entitled to a *per diem* of ________________ Pesos for every day of attendance in the Convention or any of its committees, and to the necessary traveling expenses to and from his or her established residence in Metro Manila when attending sessions of the Convention or any of its committees.

Section 6. All delegates shall, upon assumption of office, render a full disclosure of their financial and business interests and notify the Constitutional Convention and Congress of a potential conflict of interest that may arise from the discharge of his or her duties as delegates to the Convention. Such disclosure shall be made accessible via internet by the Convention secretariat to the public and media.

Section 7. All delegates to the Constitutional Convention shall enjoy the same parliamentary immunity conferred by existing laws to Members of the Philippine Congress.

Section 8. Should a vacancy occur for any reason in the position of delegate during the Constitutional Convention, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan or Panglungsod of the province or city where the vacancy occurred shall, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all its members, choose the delegate to fill in the vacancy from among the losing candidates in the concerned legislative district or, if there be no losing candidates, from among themselves.

Should the vacancy occur before the start of the Constitutional Convention, the Commission on Elections, after verification of the vacancy, shall call and hold a special election for that purpose.

Section 9. The Constitutional Convention shall meet for its inaugural session in the Session Hall of the House of Representatives not later than thirty (30) days after they are elected and appointed. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President shall jointly preside at the opening and subsequent sessions until the Convention shall have organized itself and elected its officers, which shall be not later than five (5) days after the opening session.

Unless the Constitutional Convention provides otherwise, its sessions shall be held at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives. A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may meet and adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under

such penalties as it may provide. The Constitutional Convention may adopt its own rules of proceedings as it may deem fit.

Section 10. The Constitutional Convention shall be deemed *functus officio* upon approval of its proposals in a plebiscite called for such purpose, or after two (2) years from its opening, whichever comes first.

Section 11. The initial funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Resolution shall include the budget for the necessary personnel, premises, equipment and furniture and shall be charged against the Contingent Fund under the Fiscal Year 2016 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, funds necessary for the support, operation and maintenance of the Constitutional Convention shall be proposed and included under the budget of the House of Representatives for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 12. The House of Representatives and the Senate shall pass within three (3) months from this Resolution an enabling law to implement the details consistent with the provisions hereof.

Adopted,