

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE

S.B. NO. _____

Prepared jointly by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance with Senators Francis N. Pangilinan, Ralph G. Recto, Win Gatchalian, Joel Villanueva, Ramon Bong Revilla Jr. and Sonny Angara as authors thereof

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE PERMANENT VALIDITY OF THE CERTIFICATES OF LIVE BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE ISSUED, SIGNED, CERTIFIED, OR AUTHENTICATED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA) AND ITS PREDECESSOR, THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO) AND THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRIES, AND THE REPORTS OF BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE REGISTERED AND ISSUED BY THE PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Permanent Validity of*
2 *the Certificates of Live Birth, Death, and Marriage Act*".

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to establish an effective
4 system for providing copies of civil registry documents to all its citizens. The State likewise
5 promotes efficiency and economy by removing duplicitous processes and requirements
6 involving the issuance and use of those documents. Towards this end, the State shall
7 enforce the permanent validity of the certificates of live birth, death, and marriage issued,
8 signed, certified, or authenticated by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and its

1 predecessor, the National Statistics Office (NSO), and the local civil registries, and the
2 reports of birth, death, and marriage registered and issued by Philippine Foreign Service
3 Posts and transmitted to the PSA.

4 SEC. 3. *Permanent Validity.* - The certificates of live birth, death, and marriage
5 issued, signed, certified or authenticated by the PSA and its predecessor, the NSO, and
6 the local civil registries shall have permanent validity regardless of the date of issuance
7 and shall be recognized and accepted in all government or private transactions or services
8 requiring submission thereof, as proof of identity and legal status of a person: *Provided,*
9 That the document remains intact, readable, and still visibly contains the authenticity and
10 security features: *Provided, further,* That this is without prejudice to an administrative or
11 judicial correction that may be conducted pursuant to Republic Act No. 9858 entitled, "*An*
12 *Act Providing for the Legitimation of Children Born to Parents Below Marrying Age,*
13 *Amending for the Purpose the Family Code of the Philippines, As Amended*"; Republic Act
14 No. 9048 entitled, "*An Act Authorizing the City or Municipal Civil Registrar or the Consul*
15 *General to Correct a Clerical or Typographical Error in an Entry and/or Change of First*
16 *Name or Nickname in the Civil Register Without Need of a Judicial Order, Amending for*
17 *this Purpose Articles 376 and 412 of the Civil Code of the Philippines*"; Republic Act No.
18 10172 entitled, "*An Act Further Authorizing the City or Municipal Civil Registrar or the*
19 *Consul General to Correct Clerical or Typographical Errors in the Day and Month in the*
20 *Date of Birth or Sex of a Person Appearing in the Civil Register Without Need of a Judicial*
21 *Order, Amending for this Purpose Republic Act Numbered Ninety Forty-Eight*"; and
22 Republic Act No. 9255 entitled, "*An Act Allowing Illegitimate Children to Use the Surname*
23 *of their Father, Amending for the Purpose Article 176 of Executive Order No. 209,*
24 *otherwise known as the 'Family Code of the Philippines'*", or in accordance with other
25 existing laws, rules and regulations, and judicial decrees: *Provided, finally,* That the
26 permanent validity of the Certificate of Marriage is applicable only in an instance where
27 the marriage has not been judicially decreed annulled or declared void *ab initio* as
28 provided for under the Family Code of the Philippines or any subsequent amendatory law
29 on marriage. In cases when the texts on the certificate appear illegible, or an

1 administrative correction or a judicial decree has been approved, the concerned person
2 shall thus submit the new, amended, or updated certificate.

3 This provision likewise applies to report of birth, death, or marriage registered and
4 issued by the Philippine Foreign Service Posts, and transmitted to the PSA.

5 SEC. 4. *Issuance of Civil Registry Documents; Reports of Philippine Foreign Service*
6 *Posts.* – The permanent validity herein declared notwithstanding, no person whose
7 information on the occurrence and characteristics of vital events is registered in the civil
8 registry, or the person’s authorized representative, shall be prevented from securing a
9 copy of civil registry documents in such number of prints or as often as necessary, subject
10 to applicable payment of relevant fees prescribed by the PSA, the local civil registries and
11 the Philippine Foreign Service Posts. The initial issuance of a certificate, request for
12 replacement due to loss or damage, and reissuance upon presentation of a Certificate of
13 Indigency from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall be free
14 of charge: *Provided,* That the Certificate of Indigency shall be based on the DSWD
15 Listahanan in the subsequent reissuances.

16 This provision likewise applies to requests for the issuance of reports of birth,
17 death, and marriage by the Philippine Foreign Service Posts.

18 SEC. 5. *Prohibition Against Requiring a New Copy of a Certificate.* - National
19 government agencies and instrumentalities, government-owned and controlled
20 corporations, local government units, private companies, private and public educational
21 institutions, and other non-government entities are prohibited from requiring the
22 submission of another or newer copies of certificates of live birth, death, or marriage,
23 and reports of birth, death or marriage when a valid certificate can already be presented.

24 SEC. 6 *Submission of Other Documents.* - The submission of a PSA-authenticated
25 birth certificate shall be without prejudice to the submission of other supporting
26 documents that the end-user agency, company or entity may use in determining the
27 identity of applicants, particularly those classified as special cases such as dual citizens,
28 persons with dissolved marriages, and those with late registered certificates of live birth.

29 SEC. 7. *Civil Registry Database.* - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this
30 Act, the PSA shall, in coordination with the Department of Information and

1 Communications Technology (DICT), develop a civil registry database and establish a
2 virtual viewing facility in local civil registries and in the Philippine Foreign Service Posts,
3 to verify the authenticity of the certificates of live birth, death, or marriage, and the
4 reports of birth, death, or marriage, respectively. The facility shall incorporate such
5 controls and safeguards as are appropriate and necessary, to ensure that only authorized
6 personnel have access to the facility, and the confidentiality of the information is
7 protected at all times, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Presidential Decree
8 No. 603, or the "Child and Youth Welfare Code" as amended, and Republic Act No. 10173,
9 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012". The PSA may charge reasonable fees for the use of
10 the virtual viewing facility.

11 To maximize the ease and convenience offered by technological advancements,
12 the PSA shall continually upgrade its virtual viewing facility and prioritize the migration of
13 its civil registry database into a fully digitized system. It shall likewise adopt appropriate
14 policies relative to the submission of the certificates of live birth, death, or marriage, and
15 the reports of birth, death, or marriage, towards facilitating the process of data
16 registration.

17 SEC. 8. *Penalty.* - Any person who violates Section 5 of this Act shall, upon
18 conviction, be punished with imprisonment of one (1) month and one (1) day to six (6)
19 months or a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Ten
20 thousand pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

21 If the violation is committed by a public official or employee, an accessory penalty
22 of temporary disqualification to hold public office shall likewise be imposed.

23 If the violation is committed by a corporation, partnership, or association, the
24 board of director, partner, trustee, official, or employee who directly or indirectly
25 participated in the commission of the unlawful act provided under Sec. 5 hereof, shall be
26 liable.

27 A criminal liability as provided under Republic Act 9485, or the "*Anti-Red Tape Act*
28 *of 2007*" shall be imposed on "fixers" defined under the law, as any individual, whether
29 or not officially involved in the operation of a government office or agency, who has
30 access to people working therein, and whether or not in collusion with them, facilitates

1 the speedy completion of transactions for pecuniary gain or any other advantage or
2 consideration

3 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
4 this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PSA. Thereafter,
5 such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in
6 the annual General Appropriations Act.

7 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the
8 effectivity of this Act, the National Statistician shall, in coordination with the Secretaries
9 of the DFA and the DICT, and the President of the Philippine Association of Civil
10 Registrars, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
11 implementation of this Act.

12 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision, section, or part of this Act shall be
13 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate, or impair
14 other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

15 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, rules and regulations, orders, circulars,
16 and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
17 Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

18 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
19 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20 *Approved,*