Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 563

Introduced by **Rep. Roberto C. Cajes**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The "Civil Registration Act of 2004" is proposed for a number of very important reasons.

To date, documents concerning the civil status of persons such as certificate of birth, death, marriage, and court decrees and orders have become essential instruments to the Filipino.

The Department of Education, the Professional Regulation Commission, the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the embassies and consular offices of foreign states, among others, have strict requirements on certifications concerning the status of persons.

Truly, the name and status of a person and the document stating thus have become binding to the whole world.

Several laws have been enacted to strengthen the civil registration system of our country such as the Family Code of 1991, the New Civil Code of the Philippines, and Presidential Decree 1083 or the Muslim Code of the Philippines of 1997.

Yet, the basic law that governs our civil registration system, Act No. 3753, is already 73 years old. The Act is a good law but numerous changes have taken place since it took effect on February 27, 1931. The need for the new system of registration in the Philippines has become long overdue and urgent.

For very obvious reasons, we need to evolve a new system that is more responsive to the demands of our people and to world outside. We need a law that is simple and in harmony with other laws, rules, and regulations. Hence, the proposed "Civil Registration Act of 2004" is sought to be approved.

ORIGINAL SIGNED
ROBERTO C. CAJES

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MORE RESPONSIVE SYSTEM OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

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

SECTION 1. ***Title.*** - This Act shall be known and cited as the "New Civil Registration Act of 2004."

SECTION 2. ***Civil Register.*** - A civil register is established for recording the civil status of persons, in which shall contain: (a) births; (b) deaths; (c) marriages; (d) annulment of marriages; (e) divorces; (f) legitimates; (g) adoptions; (h) acknowledgment of natural children; (i) naturalization; (j) changes of name; (k) correction of entries; and, (l) other court decrees or orders affecting the civil status of persons. It shall consists therefore of the Office of the Civil Registrar and Local Civil Registrar Office File.

SECTION 3. ***Coverage.*** - To the contrary notwithstanding, the record of the civil status of persons shall include those who are registered under the following laws: a.) Section 3 of Decree of 1898; b.) Section 20 of ACT 82 (Municipal Law); c.) ACT 273; d.) ACT 2659; e.) ACT 2711 as amended by ACT 3022; f.) ACT 3763, otherwise known as " An Act to Establish A Civil Register of February 27, 1931; g.) Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise known as the " Code of Muslim Laws of the Philippines " of February 14, 1977; h.) Presidential Decree 603; i.) Executive Order 292; j.) Executive Order 209; k.) Republic Act 9048; and, l.) those who are registered under this Act.

The Civil Registry Law embraces all acts of civil life affecting the civil status of persons and is applicable to all persons residing in the Philippines and to Filipino citizens and nationals residing in the foreign states.

SECTION 4. ***Office of the Registrar General.*** - The head of the National Statistics Office shall be the Civil Registrar-General. In the exercise of his functions, the Civil Registrar General shall have the power to give orders and instructions to the Local Civil Registrars with reference to the performance of their duties as such, the Civil Registrar General shall have technical control and supervision on Civil Registrars and other Local Civil Registrar Officials.

Corollary, the Civil Registrar may recommend criminal as well administrative sanctions against culpable violations of this Act. Such powers may be delegated to the National Statistics Office' Heads of Departments and Regional and Provincial Officers.

The local civil registrar shall be in charge of recording vital events and other documents affecting the status of persons in cities and municipalities. Authorized officials of the Philippine consular offices, embassies, and in countries where no diplomatic ties are established, commercial or trade officials, or educational or cultural attaches, are authorized to record vital events of Filipino citizens and nationals in those countries for purposes of registration.

The Civil Registrar-General shall enforce the provision of this Act and is hereby authorized to prepare and issue regulations for carrying out the purpose of this Act and to prepare and order the printing of necessary forms for its compliance.

SECTION 5. ***Civil Registry Book.*** - The civil registrars shall keep and preserve in their offices the following books, in which they shall accordingly make the proper record concerning the civil status of persons: (1) Register of Births; (2) Register of Foundings; (3) Register of Deaths; (4) Register of Fetal Deaths; (5) Register of Marriages; (6) Register of Court Decrees or Orders; (7) Register of Legal Instruments; (8) Register of Applications for Marriage License; and 9.) Register of Administrative Decrees.

SECTION 6. ***Registration and Certification of Birth.*** - The declaration of the physician, midwife, nurse, attendant at birth, or in default thereof, the declaration of either for both parents or any person who has the knowledge of the facts of birth of the newborn child shall be sufficient for a registration of a birth in the civil register. Such declaration shall be sent to the Office of the Civil Registrar not later than thirty (30) days by the aforementioned declaring the following: a.) name of the child; b.) sex; c.) date of birth; d.) place of birth; e.) name of mother; f.) citizenship of the mother; g.) name of father; h.) citizenship of the father; i.) date of marriage of parents; j.) place of marriage of parents; and k.) such other data as required in the regulation to be issued.

In such declaration, the person above mentioned shall certify to the following pertinent facts: a) name of the child; b) sex; c) date of birth; d) place of birth; e) name of mother; f) citizenship of the mother; g) name of father; h) citizenship or nationality of father; i) date of marriage of parents; j) place of marriage of parents; and, k) such other data as required in the regulation to be issued.

Registration of the children conceived and born outside a valid marriage or illegitimate children shall bear the surname of the mother, even if acknowledged by the father of the child. The certificate of live birth shall declare the facts of birth of the child, except the name of the father and his citizenship or nationality as well as other relevant information. However, if acknowledged by the father, the child shall use the surname of the father.

Abandoned children or foundling, with parents guardian or relatives being unknown, or a child committed in an orphanage or charitable institution with unknown facts of birth and parentage, shall be registered by the finder or charitable institution

concerned within thirty (30) days from the date of finding or commitment of the child at the office of the civil registrar of the city or municipality where the child was found.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall give the finder or institution that has been given custody of the child the proper authority to give the name of the child.

A person of legal age who discovers that he has not been registered with the office of the Civil Registrar of the city or municipality where he was born may be allowed a delayed or late registration with himself as the informant and affiant in the certificate of live birth. He must show authentic proof of his identity as a person, the facts of his birth, his parentage, and other relevant information on his person.

A deceased person may also be registered, under certain circumstances and upon necessity, by his or her nearest kin who shall be the informant and affiant of certificate of live birth.

The informant and affiant must show authentic proof of the identity of the person registered, the facts of his birth, his parentage and other relevant data.

Delayed or late registration of birth and out-of-town registration of birth may be allowed under existing regulation and requirements for registration.

Any fetus having human features which dies after 24 hours of existence completely engaged from the maternal womb shall be entered in the proper register as having born and having died.

The records of a person's birth shall be kept strictly confidential and no information relating thereto shall be issued except on the request of the following:

A.) The concerned person himself, or any person authorized by him;
B.) His spouse, his parent or parents, his direct descendants, or guardian or institution legally in-charged of him if he is a minor;
C.) The court or proper public officials whenever absolutely necessary in administrative, judicial or other official proceedings to determine the identity of the child's parents or other circumstances surrounding his birth; and
D.) In case of person's death, the nearest kin.

SECTION 7. ***Registration and Certification of Death.*** – No human body shall be buried unless the proper death certificate has been presented and recorded in the office of the Civil Registrar.

The physician who attended to the deceased or, in his default, the health officer concerned, or in default of the latter, any member of the family of the deceased, or any person having knowledge of the death, shall report the same to local health authorities, whom shall issue a death certificate and shall order the same to be recorded in the office of the Civil Registrar.

The death certificate which shall be issued by the attending physician of the deceased or, in his default, by the proper health officer shall contain the following data which shall be furnished by the person reporting by the person reporting the death: a) full name of the deceased; b) sex; c.) age; d) civil status; e) nationality; f) date of death; g) place of death; h) cause of death; and, i) such other data which may be required.

The surname, which is being used when still living, shall be the surname in the death certificate to the deceased unmarried persons, minors, and males.

The surname of unmarried female persons is the surname that shall be registered as such in the death certificate except for a widow who takes the option to revert to her maiden surname after the death of her husband.

Registration shall be made within thirty (30) days from the time of death in the office of the Civil Registrar of the city or municipality where it occurred.

In the absence of the health officer or his authorized representative in the place of registration, or when it is a non-working day and the health officer or his authorized representative is not expected to be in his office, the death should be reported within forty-eight (48) hours after its occurrence by the nearest of kin of the deceased or by any person having knowledge of the death to the mayor, or any member of the Sangguniang Bayan or to the municipal secretary, who shall issue and sign the medical certification portion of the Certificate of Death for burial and registration purposes.

In case of mass deaths or when several persons die due to natural calamities, accidents, epidemics where the deceased cannot be identified, the health officer, upon submission of the affidavit by two disinterested persons, in the exercise of his wise discretion, may issue and cause the registration of the death certificate bearing the annotation "Body not Identified" for burial and statistical purposes.

The affidavit referred to in the aforementioned statement shall contain the following information: a) sex of the deceased; b) estimated age; c) distinguishing features; d) condition of the body when found; e) date when the body was found; f) place where the body was found; and, g) circumstances surrounding the death.

When the death is under medico-legal examination, or where a case of death is under investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation or other investigative agency of the government and where the body of the deceased is subjected to autopsy or examination of the medico-legal officers and the deceased has not been registered in the place of the death, the head of the National Bureau of Investigation or of other investigative agency or his authorized representative shall cause the registration of such death through the health officer of the city or municipality where the death occurred.

The medico-legal officer shall accomplish and sign the medical certification of the certificate of death.

Registration of fetal death shall follow the same procedure in the registration of death.

Delayed and out-of-town registration of death is allowed in accordance with existing regulations and requirements pertinent thereto.

SECTION 8. ***Application for Marriage License***. – All applications for marriage license shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines, as amended.

For widows who shall apply for a second or subsequent marriage, the surname of her immediate previous husband shall be used for the purpose of the identifying herself in the civil status portion of the application as "widow," to differentiate her civil status from those who may apply for subsequent marriage by reason of dissolution of marriage the court decree.

This shall apply notwithstanding the option of a widow to revert to the use of her maiden surname after the death of her husband to avoid confusion.

SECTION 9. ***Registration and Certification of Marriage.*** – All *civil officers, priests, ministers, wali, imam,* and *tribal leaders* authorized to solemnize marriage shall send four (4) copies of the certificate of marriage to the civil registrar for registration within fifteen (15) days following the solemnization of marriage. Marriages exempt from license requirement, shall be registered within thirty (30) days in the city or municipality where the marriage was solemnized.

After the registration, the Civil Registrar shall distribute copies of the document bearing the civil registry number within five (5) days from receipt thereof as follows: first copy to the contracting parties; second copy to the Office of the Civil Registrar-General; third copy shall be retained for filing; and fourth copy to the solemnizing officer.

In cases of annulment of marriage, declaration of nullity, legal separation, decree of presumptive death of a spouse, it shall be the duty of the successful petitioner for annulment of marriage, legal separation, decree of presumptive death of a spouse to send a copy of the decree of the court to the civil registrar of the municipality with the name of the judge and the court which issued the decree, the date of the decree by the court and such other data must indicated thereon.

In the marriage register, there shall be entered the full name and address of each of the contracting parties, their ages, nationalities, civil status, the mother and father of each contracting parties, the date of the solemnization of marriage, the place of marriage, the full name, title, and address of the solemnizing officer and such other information that may be required by law.

Delayed or out-of-town registration of marriage may be accepted in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

SECTION 10. ***Registration of Solemnizing Officers*** – All solemnizing officers duly authorized by his church, sect or tribe shall register with the Office of the Civil Registrar General pursuant to Article 7 of Executive Order 209.

SECTION 11. ***Registration of Legitimation by Subsequent Marriage.*** – The annotation in the certificate of live birth of the child and the corresponding entries in the register of birth of the child who was legitimated by subsequent marriage shall be sufficient for the purpose of registration. In the annotation, the surname of the father of the child is entered, the date and place of marriage of parents is indicated, and the date of legitimation is stated.

Legitimation by subsequent marriage is allowed to a child, who was born to natural parents who were not yet married at the time of birth but who subsequently contracted a valid marriage.

Legitimation by subsequent marriage of parents shall be recorded in the Civil Registry office of the place where the birth was recorded.

The original family name of the child as appearing in the Register of Birth shall not be deleted but in the remarks place shall be written *"Legitimated by Subsequent Marriage on (date of marriage) at (place of marriage)* or a certified transcription using standard form from the Registered of Births bearing the effects of legitimation and the same annotation indicated in the certified true copy shall be issued.

SECTION 12. ***Registration of Adoption***. – The original birth certificate shall be amended and the amended certificate of live birth of the adopted child shall be issued by the local civil register of the city or municipality where the birth of the adopted child was recorded, shall have the same entries as those appearing in the original records of birth, except for the following items of information.

a). *Name of the adopted* – the first name of the adopted child shall be the same first name given in the original certificate of live birth unless the decree of adoption carried an order changing it to another name. The middle name of the adopted child shall be the same as the middle name of the adopter, except when the husband and the wife jointly adopted the child, in which case, the middle name of the adopted shall be the surname of the adopting mother.

The last name of the adopted child shall be the last name of the adopter, except when the husband and wife jointly adopted the child, in which case, the last name of the adopted shall be the last name of the adopting father;

b). *Names of parents* – the name of the natural parents of the adopted child shall be substituted by the names of the adopting parents whose his or her name shall be indicated in the appropriate space in the certificate of live birth as the father or mother, as the case may be; and

c). *Other information* – other information about the adopting parents such as citizenship and religion shall be indicated in the appropriate space of the amended certificate of live birth. The date and place of marriage of the adopting parents shall be entered in the appropriate space of the amended certificate of live birth of the adopted in case the husband and wife jointly made the adoption.

Otherwise, when there is only one adopter, the entry shall be "*not applicable*".

The decree of adoption shall be recorded in the civil register within thirty (30) days after the date of issue of the final judgement of the court. If not made within the prescribed period, registration shall be considered late, in which case, the registrant who may be the adopter, natural parents, adopted child, clerk of court or any interested party shall execute an affidavit showing the circumstances and reasons why the adoption was not reported for registration within the prescribe period.

A decree of adoption issued by a foreign court is acceptable for registration in the Philippines and the same shall be registered only in the Office of the Civil Registrar of Manila. After registration, the civil registrar of Manila shall furnish the civil registrar of the place where the birth was originally registered (if birth was registered in the Philippines) a certified true copy of the decree.

SECTION 13. ***Registration of Court Decree or Order.*** – In case a court issues a decree or order concerning the status of a person, it shall be the duty of the clerk of court to advise the successful petitioner to have the decree or order registered in the civil registrar's office where the court is functioning.

If it is another person who shall register the decree or order other than the clerk of court, the civil registrar shall verify if the copy of the decision is authentic. Otherwise, he shall refuse registration thereof. It is likewise the duty of the clerk of the court who issued the decree order to ascertain whether the same has been registered, and if not, to have the decree or order recorded.

The Civil Registry office where the event of the decree or order was registered shall forward a certified true copy of the decision of the Office of the Civil Registrar where an event affected was originally affected and registered. The latter shall make proper annotations in the document and in the applicable registry book. He shall likewise send a certified true copy of the annotated document and the registered court decree to the Office of the Civil Registrar General.

Each corrected document shall be reported to the Office of the Civil Registrar General during the usual reporting month.

SECTION 14. ***Presumptive Death***. - A judicial order or decree declaring a person presumably dead shall be registered at the Office of the Civil Registrar where the first marriage was registered. For the purpose of contracting a subsequent marriage, annotation shall be recorded in the marriage register as well as in the marriage certificate.

SECTION 15. ***Registration of Legal Instruments***. - As a general rule, all legal instruments shall be registered in the civil registry of the place where they were executed except the following:

a) *Affidavit of Reappearance* – where the parties to the subsequent marriage are residing;
b) *Marriage Settlement* – where the marriage was recorded;
c) *Admission of Paternity, Acknowledgment, Legitimation, Voluntary Emancipation of Minor, Artificial Insemination – where the birth of the child*

was recorded. All legal instruments executed abroad shall be registered in the Office of the Civil registry in Manila.

SECTION 16. ***Affidavit of Reappearance.*** – A sworn statement of the fact and circumstances reappearance shall be recorded in the civil registry office of the residence of the parties to the subsequent marriage at the instance of any interested person, with due notice to the spouses of the subsequent marriage and without prejudice to the fact of reappearance being judicially determined in case such a fact is disputed.

SECTION 17. ***Affidavit of Acknowledgment or Affidavit of Admission of Paternity.*** – It shall be the duty of parents or parent who executed the instrument of acknowledgment to send the original copy to the civil registrar of the municipality where birth of the child was registered for registration in the Register of Legal Instruments and proper annotation in the Register of Births.

SECTION 18. ***Authorization or Ratification of Artificial Insemination.*** – Children conceived as a result of artificial insemination of the wife with the sperm of the husband or that of a donor or both are likewise legitimate children of the husband or wife, provided that both of them authorized or ratified such insemination in a written instrument executed and signed by both of them before the birth of the child.

The instrument shall be recorded in the civil register together with the birth certificate of the child.

SECTION 19. ***Option to Elect Philippine Citizenship.*** – The option to elect Philippine citizenship in accordance with the section 1 (3), Article IV of the Constitution shall be expressed in the statement to be signed and sworn by the party concerned before any officer authorized to administer oaths, and shall be filed and register at the office of the civil registrar of the city or municipality where the instrument was executed.

Election of the Philippine citizenship executed, subscribed, sworn to before the Consular Officer in the Philippine Embassy abroad, together with his oath of allegiance, shall be registered in the Office of the Civil Registrar of Manila.

SECTION 20. ***Repatriation.*** – The instrument of repatriation and the oath of allegiance to the Constitution and the Government of the Philippines shall be filed in the Office of the Civil Registrar of the city or the municipality where the instrument was executed. However, if the Philippine citizenship is reacquired by Naturalization, the order of the court granting citizenship shall be recorded in the Register of Court Decrees or Orders.

SECTION 21. ***Duties of the Local Civil Registrar.*** – The appointment of local civil registrar shall be mandatory for city and municipal governments.

The civil registrar shall be responsible for the civil registration program in the local government unit concerned, pursuant to this Act, other existing laws, and rules and regulations issued to implement them.

The civil registrar shall take charge of the office of the civil registry and shall:

1) Accept all registrable documents and judicial decrees affecting the civil status of persons;
2) File keep and preserve in a secure place the books required by law;
3) Transcribe and enter immediately in the appropriate civil registry books all registrable documents and judicial decrees affecting the civil status of persons upon receipt thereof;
4) Transmit to the Office of the Civil Registrar General, within the prescribed period, duplicate copies of the registered documents required by law;
5) Issue certified transcript or copies of any certificate or registered documents upon payment of the prescribed fees to the treasurer,
6) Receive application for the issuance of a marriage license and, after determining that the requirements and supporting certificates and publication thereof for the prescribed period have been complied with, issue the license upon payment of authorized fee to the treasurer:
7) Administer oaths for the civil registration purposes;
8) File, keep, and preserve civil registry records in accordance with archival system;
9) Submit status reports on the condition of civil registry documents filed in the civil registry office whenever there are changes of the previous status of files;
10) Reconstruct destroyed civil registry records;
11) Coordinate with the Office of the Civil Registrar General conducting educational campaigns for vital registration and assist in the preparation of demographic and other statistics for the local government units concerned; and
12) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions that may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SECTION 22. ***Duties of the Barangay Officials*** – All elected and/or appointed Barangay Officials, shall assist in Civil Registration within their area of jurisdiction.

SECTION 23. ***Documents Registered and Public Documents***. – The books making up the civil register and all documents relating thereto shall be considered public documents and shall be *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the facts therein contained. They shall be open to the public during office hours and shall be kept in a secured placed which shall be furnished to the local civil registrar at the expense of the funds of the municipality concerned.

The local civil registrar shall not, under any circumstance, permit any document entrusted to his care to be removed from his office, except by lawful order of a court, in which case the proper receipt shall be taken.

The local civil registrar may issue certified copies of any documents filed, upon payment of proper fees fixed by the municipal ordinance.

SECTION 24. ***Expense of the Office of the Civil Registrar***. – All expenses in connection with the establishment of civil registrar's office shall be paid out of municipal

funds, and for this purpose, the Sanggunian of municipalities or cities concerned shall make the necessary appropriation available.

SECTION 25. ***Fees and other Services.*** – Fees for registration of documents, certified copies of documents on file in the civil registrar's office and other services, including marriage license fees shall be imposed by the municipal government and shall be fixed by an approved ordinance through their respective Sanggunians in accordance with pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

Registration of births, deaths, and marriages within the prescribed reglementary period shall be free of charge but delayed and out-of-town registration of these documents shall be charged with fees in accordance with an approved ordinance of the *sanggunian* where the document is to be registered.

The Certificate of Live Birth, Certificate of Death Certificate of Fetal Death, Certificate Marriage, Certificate of Founding, Application for Marriage, when submitted for registration with the Office of the Civil Registrar shall be except from the payment of the documentary stamp tax.

The Civil Registrar-General or any local civil registrar may issue certified copies of the documents free of charge for official use or at the request of a competent court.

SECTION 26. ***False Statement.*** – Any person who shall knowingly make false statement in the forms furnished and shall present the same for entry in the civil registers, shall be penalized with an imprisonment, fine or both upon the discretion of the court.

SECTION 27. ***Failure to Report and Other Violations.*** – Any person whose duty is to report any fact concerning the civil status of persons and who knowingly fails to perform such duty, and any person convicted of having violated the provisions of this Act, shall be punished in accordance with existing laws.

Any civil registrar who fails to properly perform his duties in accordance with the provisions of this Act and of the regulation issued hereunder, shall be punished in accordance with law.

Any priest or minister solemnizing marriage without being authorized by the Civil Registrar general or who upon solemnizing marriage, refuses to exhibit his authorization in force when called upon to do so by the parties or parents, grandparents, guardians or persons having charge; and any bishop or officer, priest, or minister of any church, religion or sect the regulations and practices whereof require bans or publication previous to the solemnization of marriage who authorized the immediate solemnization of a marriage that is subsequently declared illegal, or any officer, priest or minister solemnizing marriage in violation of the provisions of this Act, shall be punished with the imprisonment of not less than one month nor more than two years, or by a fine of not less than two hundred pesos nor more than two thousand pesos or the revocation of the registration of authority to solemnize marriage.

Any officer, priest, or minister who fails to deliver copies of the certificate of marriage to the city or municipal civil registrar within the period fixed by law shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than one month, or by a fine of not more than three hundred pesos, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Any attending physician, nurse, midwife, hospital administrator, person having been in charge of the certificate of live birth who knowingly fails or withholds the delivery of copies of the certificate of live birth to the city or municipal civil registrar within the period fixed by law shall be penalized by imprisonment of not more than one month, or by a fine of not more than three hundred pesos, or both, in the discretion of the court.

The attending physician, nurse, hospital administrator, health officer, funeral parlor caretaker, operator, proprietor who knowingly fails or withholds the delivery of copies of the certificate of death to the city or municipal registrar within the period fixed by laws shall be penalized by imprisonment of not more than one month, or by a fine of not more than three hundred pesos, or both, in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 28. ***Special Areas or Registrations.*** – In view of the socio-cultural and religious pecularities of the following sectors:

A.) *Muslims* – The civil registration shall be governed by Presidential Decree 1083, Executive Order 157, and Administrative Order 02, Series of 1993.

B.) *Indigenous People* – The civil registration shall be governed by the Republic Act 8371 and its implementing rules and regulations.

C.) *Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances (CEDC)* – The Office of the Civil Registrar-General in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other concerned agencies shall promulgate rules and regulations concerning Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances.

SECTION 29. ***Mandatory Review***. This Act shall undergo a mandatory review on its provisions every ten (10) years to make the law more responsive to the needs of times. The review shall be made by Congress which shall conduct public hearings and record relevant testimonies of functionaries in the civil registration system which shall be the basis of and amendment or modification of certain provisions.

SECTION 30. ***Transitory Provisions.***

a) All rights, duties, and powers established by Act numbered thirty-seven Hundred and Fifty-three (3753), entitled "An Act to Establish Civil Registry," conferred and imposed by the said Act Municipal Treasurers, City Health Officers, Municipal Planning and Development Officers as designated civil registrars of cities and municipalities shall be transferred to the office of the local civil registrar of cities and municipalities in accordance with the pertinent provision of this Act.

b) As far as practicable, the "suits" of the vital event for registration or the place where the event happened shall be the basis of registration under this

Act. However, in exceptional circumstances to be determined by the Office of the Civil Registrar-General, other than the place where the vital event occurred, may be allowed as the place of registration.

c) Registration of the vital events which are at present existing records in the civil registry shall be allowed to keep them as such even if they were erroneously registered in other places other than place of actual occurrence of the events and without need of transferring these records to the actual place where the vital event occurred. However, these shall only apply to those events that were registered before the implementation of this Act.

d) For those documents that were registered in one municipality or city or subsequently transferred to another city or municipality, the same shall be permanently recorded as such, in the place where the document has been transferred.

SECTION 31. ***Final Provisions.*** – Act No. 3753 and Administrative Order No.1, Series of 1993 which are the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Act No. 3753, are hereby abolished. Act No. 2711, otherwise known as " Revised Administrative Code of the Philippines Islands of 1917". Act No.3613, entitled , " The Marriage Law ", and Executive Order No. 209, as amended, in so far as these are inconsistent with this Act and other laws on civil registration issued by the Office of the Civil Registrar-General, and previous administrative orders which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed repealed, amended, modified accordingly.

SECTION 32. ***Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 33. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) after publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,