

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5621**



Introduced by REP. CRISTAL L. BAGATSING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The present set up at the Consular Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Macapagal Avenue, for the renewal of passports is to set an appointment online and after which you will be given a schedule for a certain date. If you go online appointment today May 9, 2017 you will be scheduled in August of this year for the renewal of your passport. If you miss your schedule of appointment you have to wait for another thirty (30) days before you can apply for the renewal of your passport.

In as much as the present administration's thrust and policy is to create a real change, this bill seek to amend by extending the validity of the issued regular passport from Five (5) years to Ten (10) years, save in certain cases. Thus giving convenience to the people, particularly our new heroes the Overseas Filipino Workers. Through this amendment it could also prevent backlogs in the issuance of passport.

For this reason, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CRISTAL BAGATSING
Congresswoman
5th District, Manila

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

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
Seventeenth Congress

HOUSE BILL NO. 5621

Introduced by: Honorable Cristal L. Bagatsing

AN ACT

**EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE
PASSPORT ACT OF 1996", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8329, otherwise known as the
"Philippine Passport Act Of 1996", is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"SEC. 10. Validity. – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for
period of TEN (10) [five(5)] years: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER
EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE, ONLY A PASSPORT WITH FIVE-YEAR VALIDITY SHALL BE ISSUED:
Provided, [however] FURTHER, That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to
less than TEN (10) [five(5)] years; whenever in the national economic interest or political
stability of the country such restriction is necessary: Provided finally, That a new passport
may be issued to replace one which validity has expired, the old passport being returned to
the holder after cancellation".

SECTION 2. Implementing Authority. The Department of Foreign Affairs shall issue
the necessary implementing rules and regulations and adopt best practices to ensure that
the provisions of this Act are implemented in convergence with necessary reforms to make
the passport processing system seamless, convenient and pro-people, and the production and
security of passports at par with technological advances and world standards.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is declared
unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts not affected shall remain in full force
and effect.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other
issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or
modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. - This Act take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.