

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17th Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6463**



Introduced by: **HON. LORNA C. SILVERIO**

AN ACT
PROHIBITING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FROM REQUIRING THE
SUBMISSION OF A PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY CERTIFIED BIRTH
CERTIFICATE ISSUED WITHIN THE PAST SIX (6) MONTHS

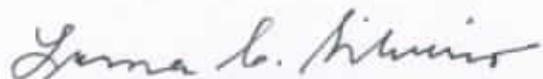
EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the most highly requested civil registry documents is the birth certificate. This is because it is one of the documentary requirements for employment, social security benefits, marriage, school admission and for securing a number of vital government issued documents and identification such as passport or driver's license.

Birth certificates certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) are printed in security paper (SECPA). Each copy costs P140 while the cost of including delivery of the birth certificate printed on SECPA is P 315 per copy. The SECPA over the years have changed in appearance in order to keep the proliferation of fraudulent birth certificates and identities at bay. However, the PSA has expressed that changes in the color of the SECPA does not remove the validity of the birth certificate. Nevertheless, some government agencies still require that applicants submit a birth certificate printed in the most recent version of SECPA issued within the past six (6) months, thereby entailing additional expenses every time an individual has to secure a birth certificate.

This bill seeks to eliminate the unnecessary expense and inconvenience on people in requesting for a birth certificate whenever they will have to apply from government for services and documents that require proof of their birth date. This bill mandates that government agencies requiring birth certificates for services be prohibited from compelling applicants to provide a birth certificate that has been requested from the PSA within the past six months.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LORNA C. SILVERIO

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

SEC 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "Birth Certificate Lifetime Validity Act".

SEC 2. Declaration of State Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to establish an effective system that will improve the efficiency of delivery of government frontline services, particularly civil registry documents. As such, the State shall enforce a lifetime validity on birth records duly certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

SEC 3. Coverage. This Act shall apply to all National Government agencies that would require the submission of a birth record duly certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority for the delivery of government services and issuance of documents.

SEC 4. Prohibition on the Requirement of Submitting a Birth Certificate certified by the PSA within the past 6 months. Government agencies are prohibited from requiring applicants to government services to submit birth records printed on the most recent version of the security paper used by the PSA, or certified within the past six months. The birth certificate certified and issued by the PSA shall not expire and shall be considered valid: Provided, that the birth records do not require administrative corrections as provided under Republic Act Nos. 9048 and 10172.

SEC 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PSA shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SEC 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulation, and other issuances or part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly

SEC 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take after fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

Lerna L. Silvestre