

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 7139



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

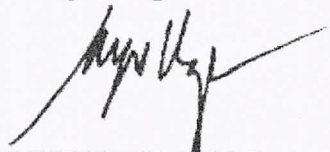
AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES
ISSUED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A birth certificate is an official form issued and certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority. It is a document that provides personal records of an individual regarding birth, sex, nationality, and parent's information. This is the very document that authenticates an individual's identity. A birth certificate is a basic requirement for education, marriage, employment, social security coverage, and eligibility for assistance may it be from a public or private sector.

This form is printed in paper with specifications in order to secure and provide integrity to the document. The Philippine Statistics Authority issues birth certificates that only lasts for six (6) months. That means, an individual must secure a new copy every 6 months, if needed. The expiration of this document results in additional unnecessary expenses for ordinary Filipinos who are required to submit this basic requirement. In addition, this increases the struggle of first-time jobseekers who are required to submit a copy of their birth certificate in the course of their job applications. Thus, this bill seeks to strengthen the scope of validity of birth certificates beyond six months.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Lifetime Validity of Birth Certificates Act”.

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

SECTION 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all national government agencies that require the submission of a birth record certified by the Philippines Statistics Authority for the delivery of government services and issuance of documents.

SECTION 4. *Prohibition on the Requirement of Submitting a Birth Certificate Certified by the Philippines Statistics Authority with the Past Six (6) Months.* – Government agencies shall be prohibited from requiring applicants to government services to submit birth records printed on the most recent version of the security paper used by PSA, or those certified by the PSA within the past six (6) months. For this purpose, the birth certificate issued or certified by PSA shall not expire and shall be considered valid at any time. *Provided, That* the birth records do not require administrative corrections as provided under Republic Act Nos. 9048 and 10172.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, PSA, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to effectivity carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All acts, laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of instructions and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,