

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

18TH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7831



Introduced by Representative **RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit our country's economy really hard. Since the nation was placed on strict quarantine measures in March, a majority of businesses have been compelled to suspend activities. Today, even as the pandemic continues to rage on, our economy is beginning to resume operations, albeit taking on extra health safety measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

But given the long pause they had to take during the quarantine, this bill seeks to grant the President the authority to suspend the requirements for national and local permits, licenses and certifications, and to streamline and expedite the process for the issuance of such, in hopes of somehow lightening the burden of our enterprises and allowing them to more easily pursue their transactions.

By streamlining such regulatory activities, contact and exposure may be minimized for such transactions, at the same time, shortening the turnover periods for the same which will redound to more robust activities for business.

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

RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA

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AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO EXPEDITE THE
PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL
PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATIONS

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

SECTION 1. Coverage. - This Act shall cover all agencies of the executive branch, including departments, bureaus, offices, commissions, boards, councils, government instrumentalities, and government-owned and controlled corporations such as, but not limited to, the following: Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Bureau of Customs (BOC); Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Land Management Bureau; Department of Justice (DOJ), Land Registration Authority (LRA), Bureau of Immigration (BI); Department of Transportation (DOTr), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA); Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP); Department of Health (DOH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Department of Information and

Communications Technology (DICT), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC); Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); Department of Energy (DOE); Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC); Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Home Mutual Development Fund (HDMF/PAGIBIG), Human Settlements Adjudication Commission (HSAC); Social Security System (SSS); Government Service Insurance System (GSIS); and local government units.

Sec. 2. *Authority of the President to Suspend the Requirements for National and Local Permits, Licenses, and Certifications, and to Streamline and Expedite the Process for the Issuance thereof* - Notwithstanding any law, decree, order, or ordinance to the contrary, the President, in times of national emergency shall have the authority to: (a) accelerate and streamline regulatory processes and procedures for new and pending applications for permits, licenses, clearances, certifications, or authorizations, including fixing or shortening the periods provided for under existing laws, regulations, issuances, and ordinances; (b) suspend or waive the requirements in securing such permits, licenses, clearances, certifications or authorizations.

Sec. 3. *Power to Suspend or Remove* – Consistent with Article VII Sections 1 and 18 of the Constitution, the Revised Administrative Code, and other existing laws and jurisprudence, the President shall have the authority to suspend or remove, upon the determination of a competent body, any government official or employee performing acts contrary to the preceding section.

Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act shall be deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.