

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9435**



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Civil registry documents such as birth, marriage, and death certificates are vital records of individuals. While they remain permanent records of identities and do not have expiration periods, the certificate imprinted on the security paper (SECPA) by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is only valid for six (6) months. Individuals are then asked to secure a new copy every six (6) months, if required by government agencies and private companies, for application for licenses, passports, employment, and social security benefits. It proves to be arduous on the part of the citizenry, especially those who are living in remote areas, as it demands recurring and unnecessary expenses.

This proposed measure seeks to provide for the permanent validity of the certificates of birth, death and marriage issued, signed, certified, or authenticated by the PSA, the local civil registry offices, and the National Statistics Office (NSO). It allows the submission of certificates or certified true copies of the original issued and signed by the local civil registrar and the National Statistics Office. Further, it also prohibits government agencies

and private companies from requiring an individual to submit the most recent copy of birth, marriage, or death certificates to avail their services.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

Representative

Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE PERMANENT VALIDITY OF THE CERTIFICATES OF LIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE ISSUED, SIGNED, CERTIFIED AND AUTHENTICATED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA), THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICES AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO)

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.*– This Act shall be known as the “Permanent Validity of
2 the Certificates of Live Birth, Death and Marriage Act.”

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*– It is hereby the policy the State to establish an
5 effective system for providing copies of civil registry documents to all its citizens. The
6 State likewise promotes efficiency and economy by removing duplicitous processes and
7 strenuous requirements involving the issuance and use of those documents. Towards this

1 end, the State shall enforce the permanent validity of the certificates of live birth, death
2 and marriage issued, signed, certified, or authenticated by the Philippine Statistics
3 Authority (PSA), the local civil registry offices and the National Statistics Office (NSO).
4

5 Sec. 3. *Permanent Validity.*— The Certificate of Live Birth, the Certificate and the
6 Certificate of Marriage issued, signed, certified or authenticated by the Philippine Statistics
7 Authority, the local civil registry offices or the National Statistics Office, shall have
8 permanent validity regardless of the date of issuance, shall be recognized and accepted
9 in all government or private transactions or services requiring submission as proof of
10 identity and legal status of a person: *Provided*, That the document remains intact and
11 readable, and still visibly contains the authenticity and security features: *Provided further*,
12 That the entries in the certificates of live birth, death and marriage do not require
13 administrative or judicial correction as provided under Republic Act No. 9048 entitled "*An*
14 *Act Authorizing the City or Municipal Civil Registrar or the Consul General to Correct a*
15 *Clerical or Typographical Error in an Entry and/or Change of First Name or Nickname in*
16 *the Civil Registrar Without Need of a Judicial Order, Amending for this Purpose Articles*
17 *376 and 412 of the Civil Code of the Philippines,*" as amended by Republic Act No. 10172
18 entitled "*An Act Further Authorizing the City or Municipal Civil Registrar or the Consul*
19 *General to Correct Clerical or Typographical Errors in the Day and Month in the Date of*
20 *Birth or Sex of a Person Appearing in the Civil Register Without Need of a Judicial Order,*
21 *Amending for this Purpose Republic Act Numbered Ninety Forty-Eight,*" and Republic Act
22 No. 9255 entitled "*An Act Allowing Illegitimate Children to Use the Surname of their*
23 *Father, Amending for the Purpose Article 176 of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise*
24 *known as the "Family Code of the Philippines."* *Provided further*, That for the Certificate
25 of Marriage, the marriage has not been judicially decreed annulled or declared *void ab*
26 *initio* as provided under the Family Code of the Philippines or under any subsequent laws
27 amending it. Otherwise, the person is required to submit the newly corrected copy of the
28 Certificate of Live Birth or the Certificate of Marriage.
29

1 This provision likewise applies to reports of birth issued by Foreign Service Posts
2 to Filipinos born overseas which are duly registered at the Philippine Statistics Authority.
3

4 Sec. 4. *Securing of Copies.*— The permanent validity herein declared
5 notwithstanding, no person whose information on the occurrence and characteristics of
6 vital events is registered in the civil registry, or the authorized representative, shall be
7 prevented from securing a copy of civil registry documents in such number of prints or
8 as often as necessary, subject to applicable payment of relevant fees prescribed the
9 Philippine Statistics Authority and the local civil registry office concerned. The initial
10 issuance of a certificate and request for replacement due to loss or damage and
11 reissuance upon presentation of a Certificate of Indigency, shall be free of charge.
12

13 Sec. 5. *Prohibited Requirement.*— National government agencies and
14 instrumentalities, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government
15 units, private companies and other non-government entities are prohibited from requiring
16 the submission of a certificate of live birth, or death or marriage printed on the most
17 recent version of the security paper issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority or certified
18 within the past six (6) months.
19

20 Sec. 6. *Non-Availability of Philippine Statistics Authority-Issued Certificate.*— In all
21 transactions or services where a copy of the certificate of live birth, or death or marriage
22 is required and a PSA-issued certificate is not available, it shall be sufficient for the person
23 concerned or the authorized representative to submit to the end-user agency, company
24 or entity the original or a certified true copy of the original certificate of live birth, or
25 death or marriage issued and signed by the local civil registrar or those bearing the
26 National Statistics Office logo.
27

28 Sec. 7. *Submission of Other Documents.*— The submission of a PSA-authenticated
29 birth certificate shall be without prejudice to the submission of other supporting
30 documents that the end-user agency, company or entity may use in determining the

1 identity of applicants, particularly those classified as special cases such as dual citizens,
2 female applicants with dissolved marriages, and those with late registered certificates of
3 live birth.

4
5 Sec. 8. *Civil Registry Database.*– Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this
6 Act, the Philippine Statistics Authority, in coordination with the Department of Information
7 and Communications Technology (DICT), shall develop a civil registry database in local
8 civil registry offices and establish a virtual viewing facility where the certificates of live
9 birth, death and marriage may be verified for authenticity of the photocopy submitted.
10 The facility shall incorporate such controls and safeguards as are appropriate and
11 necessary to ensure that only authorized personnel have access to the facility and the
12 confidentiality of the information is protected at all times, in accordance with the relevant
13 provisions of Presidential Decree No. 603, otherwise known as the “*Child and Youth*
14 *Welfare Code*” as amended, and Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “*Data*
15 *Privacy Act of 2012*.” The Philippine Statistics Authority may charge reasonable fees for
16 the use of the virtual viewing facility.

17
18 To maximize the ease and convenience offered by technological advancements,
19 the Philippine Statistics Authority shall continually upgrade the virtual viewing facility and
20 adopt appropriate policies towards the migration of the required submission of the
21 certificates of live birth, death and marriage into a paperless process.

22
23 Sec. 9. *Penalties.*– Any person who violates Section 5 of this Act, upon conviction,
24 be punished with imprisonment of one (1) month and one (1) day to six (6) months or a
25 fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Ten Thousand
26 Pesos (P10,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court.

27
28 If the violation is committed by a public official or employee, an accessory penalty
29 of temporary disqualification to hold public office shall likewise be imposed.

1 If the violation is committed by a corporation, partnership or association, the board
2 of directors, partners, trustees, officials, and employees who directly participated in the
3 commission on the unlawful act shall be liable.

4
5 Sec. 10. *Appropriations.*— The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
6 shall be charged against the current appropriations of the National Economic and
7 Development Authority (NEDA). Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the
8 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
9 Appropriations Act.

10
11 Sec. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*— Within sixty (60) days from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the National Statistician, in coordination with the Secretaries of the
13 Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Information and
14 Communications Technology, and the Director-General of the National Economic and
15 Development Authority shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
16 effective implementation of this Act.

17
18 Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.*— If any provisions, section or part of this Act shall be
19 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affected, invalidate or impair
20 any other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

21
22 Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, rules and regulations, orders, circulars
23 and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
24 Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

25
26 Sec. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
27 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,