

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3445



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our medical doctors are no doubt among the selfless heroes who have been fighting our nation's battle against the Covid-19 Pandemic since the early part of the year 2020. Since May of the aforementioned year, doctors accounted for 2 out of 5 deaths among health workers infected with COVID-19 in the Philippines. At least 1,761 physicians tested positive for the disease as of October 3. This means that the case fatality rate for doctors was at 1.48%, which is the highest among the health workers who contracted covid-19.

Indeed, doctors who treat covid-19 patients are highly at risk not only of contracting the virus but also of suffering demise therefrom. While there is not much study or discussion on the direct link or causation between the profession and the higher risk of death, it cannot be denied that the job entailed by the profession does require close proximity -and more often than not - direct contact with the patient, whether for Covid-19 or other non-covid-19 diseases that need to be attended to in the midst of the pandemic.

As a way to repay the heroic efforts of our medical doctors, this bill proposes a little incentive in the form of extending the validity of their medical licenses from three years to five years to somehow minimize their costs and allow them to practice their profession for a longer but still reasonable period of time.

This bill anchors its objective in the belief that extending the validity of the licenses of medical doctors for another two years will not in any way diminish their competence or knowledge with regard to the practice of their profession. After all, the Continuing Professional Development Program as mandated by Republic Act 10912 still stands, with the structure, units, and other related concerns being subject to adjustment by the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine in consultation with the Professional Regulatory Commission and other relevant authorities in the event that this bill is passed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin L. Olivarez', with a stylized, flowing script.

EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ

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AN ACT
EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF LICENSES OF MEDICAL
DOCTORS FROM THREE YEARS TO FIVE YEARS

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Medical Doctors' Five-Year License Validity Act".

Sec. 2. Coverage. This Act shall cover all licensed Medical Doctors and passers of the Medicine Board Examinations who are about to obtain their certificates of registration otherwise known as professional licenses from the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC).

Sec. 3. Extension of Validity of Licenses. The validity of the certificate of registration otherwise known as license to be issued by the PRC to recent passers of the Medicine Board Examinations shall be extended from three (3) years to five (5) years.

Sec. 4. Validity of Licenses issued before the Enactment of this Act. Licenses issued to medical doctors before the enactment of this Act shall follow the existing three-year validity and application for renewal thereof shall be done before the expiration of the said

three-year period. Thereafter, the five-year validity of their licenses shall start to apply.

Sec. 5. *Continuing Professional Development.* The Continuing Professional Development Program as mandated by Republic Act 10912 may be adjusted with respect to the medical profession by the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine in consultation with the Professional Regulatory Commission and other relevant authorities Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) and Accredited Professional Organization (APO), in line with the extension of the validity of the licenses for medical doctors.

Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, acts presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

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

APPROVED.