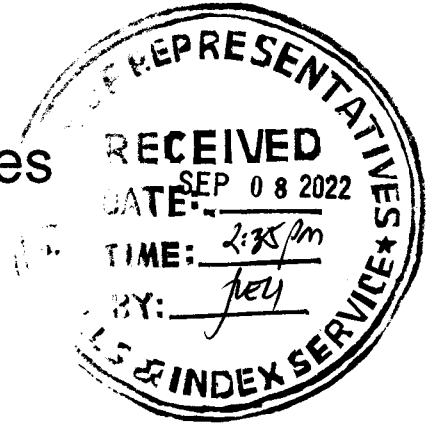




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4592



Introduced by Representative Khymer Adan T. Olaso

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to allow seafarers, manning agencies or shipping companies to renew or revalidate online the certificates of competency and proficiency of seafarers on board a vessel, amending for the purpose Republic Act (RA) No. 10635, entitled "*An Act Establishing the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the Single Maritime Administration Responsible for the Implementation and Enforcement of the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, as amended, and International Agreements or Covenants Related Thereto.*"

One of the policies under RA 10635 provides that: "*The State recognizes the vital contribution of the seafarers to the national economy. Toward this end, the State shall establish systems and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the well-being of the seafarers to ensure their professionalism and competitiveness, both in local and international trade, consistent with existing local labor laws and applicable international laws.*"

Certificates of competency and proficiency entitle seafarers to perform their maritime functions and serve as proof of their qualifications and compliance with the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers. The issuance and revalidation of these documents are regulated by MARINA through various memorandum circulars and administrative issuances.

Under Section 4(c) of RA 10635, the powers and functions of different regulatory agencies relative to the issuance, validation, verification, correction, revocation or cancellation of certificates of competency, endorsement, proficiency and documentary evidence required of all seafarers and all such other matters pertaining to the implementation of the STCW Convention were assumed by MARINA. Pursuant to this section, MARINA issued memorandum circulars that allow crewing agencies or shipping companies to file for the processing of the revalidation of certificates of competency and proficiency of their seafarers who are serving on board a vessel with extended contracts. However, these memorandum circulars are not permanent in nature and may, at any time, be cancelled or revoked.

With the advent of more advanced technological infrastructure, it is likewise high time to allow the seafarers, manning agencies, and shipping companies to renew or revalidate certificates of competency and proficiency online.

The passage of this proposed bill will ensure that Filipino seafarers will always have a way to conveniently establish their qualifications and competencies while on board a vessel, allowing them to continue their seagoing functions without the burden of unwarranted administrative restrictions.

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


KHYMER ADAN T. OLASO
Representative
1st District, Zamboanga City



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4592

Introduced by Representative Khymer Adan T. Olaso

1 **AN ACT**

2 **ALLOWING THE SEAFARERS, MANNING AGENCIES OR**
3 **SHIPPING COMPANIES TO RENEW OR REVALIDATE ONLINE**
4 **THE CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AND PROFICIENCY OF**
5 **SEAFARERS ON BOARD A VESSEL, AMENDING FOR THE**
6 **PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10635, ENTITLED “AN ACT**
7 **ESTABLISHING THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA)**
8 **AS THE SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR**
9 **THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE 1978**
10 **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING,**
11 **CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, AS**
12 **AMENDED, AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OR COVENANTS**
13 **RELATED THERETO”**

14
15 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines*
16 *in Congress assembled:*

17
18 SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act 10635 is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 “SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions of the MARINA.* – In
21 addition to the mandate of the MARINA under Presidential Decree
22 No. 474, as amended, and in order to carry out the provisions of
23 this Act, the MARINA shall exercise the following powers and
24 functions:

1 “(a) xxx

2 “(b) xxx

3 “xxx

4 **“(D) ALLOW SEAFARERS, MANNING AGENCIES**
5 **OR SHIPPING COMPANIES TO PROCESS THE**
6 **RENEWAL OR REVALIDATION OF THE CERTIFICATES**
7 **OF COMPETENCY OR PROFICIENCY OF SEAFARERS**
8 **WHO ARE SERVING ON BOARD A VESSEL AND WHOSE**
9 **CONTRACTS ARE EXTENDED, THROUGH THE USE OF**
10 **THE LATEST ONLINE APPLICATIONS OR**
11 **MECHANISMS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND**
12 **COMMUNICATIONS.”**

13 SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations
14 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended,
15 repealed or modified accordingly.

16 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
17 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18 Approved,