

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **6682**



Introduced by Representatives PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, ERIC G. YAP,
EDVIC G. YAP, and JEFFREY SORIANO

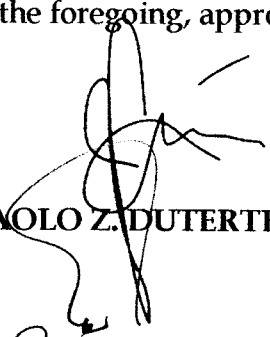
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution guarantees the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach to the country's elderly in terms of their health development as well as other social services at an affordable cost. While the country is experiencing an ageing population accounting for 8.7 million Filipinos who are over sixty (60) years old according to the Commission on Population and Development, 1.3 million of them are living in the poverty as reiterated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Hence, in pursuit of providing convenience to the country's senior citizens, mitigating the exorbitant prices of various services provided to them, and appreciating the elderly's invaluable contribution to the nation's rich history, there is a need to extend the said constitutional mandate even in the service of the application and renewal of the senior citizen's passports. In addition, given the recurrence of health conditions at old age, the country's senior citizens shall not undergo the rigorous and long process associated in the renewal or application of passports.

It is in this end that this measure seeks to bestow to the country's senior citizens the privilege of having a passport with a lifetime validity, thereby allowing these senior citizens to enjoy the benefits of their retirement with the hassle of passport application and/or renewal.

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



PAOLO Z. DUTERTE



EDVIC G. YAP



ERIC G. YAP



JEFFREY SORIANO

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AN ACT

GRANTING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS ISSUED TO SENIOR CITIZENS/ELDERLY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 10928 (R.A. 10928), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996", AS AMENDED

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 "Senior Citizens' Lifetime Passport Act of 2019"

SEC. 2. *Validity.* - Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippine Passport Act of 1996", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10 Validity - Regular passports issued to individuals from eighteen (18) years of age and above under this Act shall be valid for a period of ten (10) years, for individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, only a passport with five (5)-year validity shall be issued, and for senior citizens issued or renewed at the age of sixty (60) years of age shall have a lifetime validity: Provided, further, That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than ten (10) years, whenever in the national economic interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary: Provided, finally, That a new passport may be issued to replace one which validity has expired, the old passport being returned to the holder after cancellation."

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, the Department of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the National Commission on Senior Citizens shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* - Should any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid, the other provisions or sections of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,