

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9089**



Introduced by Representative Marjorie Ann "Maan" A. Teodoro

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the validity of authorization of priests, ministers of the gospel of any denomination, church, sect or religion, or rabbis to solemnize marriages from three (3) years to five (5) years.

Marriage is a sacrament pertaining to the covenant built by a husband and a wife. Under Executive Order No. 209 (EO No. 209) or the *Family Code of the Philippines*, Marriage is defined as "a special contract of permanent union between a man and a woman entered into in accordance with law for the establishment of conjugal and family life. It is the foundation of the family and an inviolable social institution whose nature, consequences, and incidents are governed by law and not subject to stipulation, except that marriage settlements may fix the property relations during the marriage within the limits provided by this Code". Given this, EO No. 209 specifically states who are allowed to solemnize marriages in the Philippines, which includes priests, rabbis, imams, or ministers of any church or religious sect duly authorized by his church or religious sect and registered with the civil registrar general, acting within the limits of the written authority granted him by his church or religious sect and provided that at least one of the contracting parties belongs to the solemnizing officer's church or religious sect.

The 'Authority to Solemnize Marriages' was further detailed in Republic Act No. 386 or the *Civil Code of the Philippines* by stating the role of the public official in charge of their registration, however, without specifying the number of years for priests, ministers, or rabbis to solemnize marriages in their church, therefore, Republic Act No. 6514 was enacted to amend RA No. 386 to specifically state their validity of authorization to solemnize marriages.

However, given time constraints and other responsibilities due to our officiants, validity of their authorization to solemnize marriages must be increased from 3 years to 5 years.

MARJORIE ANN "MAAN" A. TEODORO

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House Bill No. _____

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE VALIDITY OF AUTHORIZATION OF PRIESTS, MINISTERS OR
RABBIS TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES FROM THREE (3) YEARS TO FIVE (5) YEARS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6514 AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION. 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6514 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Article 95. The public official in charge of registration of priests, ministers **OF THE GOSPEL OF ANY DENOMINATION, CHURCH, SECT OR RELIGION** or rabbis with the approval of the proper head of department, is hereby authorized to prepare the necessary forms and to promulgate rules and regulations for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Title: *Provided*, That the authorization to solemnize marriages shall be valid for a period of [three] **FIVE** years, shall expire on the thirty first- day of December of every [third] **FIFTH** year, and shall be renewable within the said month of December: *Provided, further*, That the authorizations to solemnize marriage issued prior to and valid on the date of the approval of this amendatory Act shall continue to be valid until the thirsty-first of December of the year when this amendatory Act takes effect, any regulation to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided, finally*, That the words "my authority to solemnize marriage expires on December 31, [19]20__" shall be indicated in all marriage contracts just below the title of the person so authorized to solemnize marriages."

x x x

BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THEIR AUTHORIZATION TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE, PRIESTS, MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL OF ANY DENOMINATION, CHURCH, SECT OR RELIGION, OR RABBIS SHALL UNDERGO A SEMINAR AS A PRE-REQUISITE TO THEIR REGISTRATION."

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,