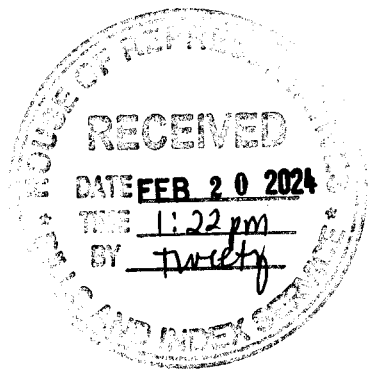
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9957

Introduced by REP. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The role of professionals in the country is challenging, requiring a specific knowledge base and adherence to ethical standards and relevant government rules and regulations. Consequently, the public heavily relies on professionals for services that exceed typical duties.

As of October 2022, the Professional Regulation Commission ("PRC") served more than 4,900,000 (4.9 million) professionals from 46 various regulated professions. The said commission continues to cater to hundreds of thousands of aspiring professionals who take the licensure examinations every year.[1]

As of 2023, the PRC had one (1) central office, 14 regional branches, 21 satellite service centers, and four (4) offices located in One-Stop Service Center for Overseas Filipino Workers.

Currently, the Certificates of Registration ("CORs") and Professional Identification Cards ("PICs") issued by the PRC are valid for only three (3) years, and renewal is required every three (3) years. The short validity period of CORs and PICs poses a challenge to professionals, particularly due to the limited number of PRC offices available to serve them. [2]

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[1] Professional Regulation Commission. (n.d.). *History*. https://www.prc.gov.ph/history
[2] Professional Regulation Commission. (n.d.). *PRC Frequently Asked Questions*. https://www.prc.gov.ph/prc-frequently-asked-questions

To address the abovementioned challenge, this bill extends the validity period of CORs and PICs from three (3) years to five (5) years. It likewise mandates the PRC and its relevant departments to develop and maintain the necessary system enhancement to operationalize the provisions of this bill, and finalize the revised assessment of the annual registration fees.

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

MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA
Representative
6th District, Province of Negros Occidental

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HOUSE BILL NO. 9957

Introduced by REP. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA

AN ACT
EXTENDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Extension of Validity of PRC COR and PIC Act".

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The State recognizes professionals in fields of activity where public protection against incompetence is necessary and where adherence to standards is crucial for maintaining public confidence. Toward this end, the State shall appreciate the steadfast and dedicated service of professionals to the public by extending the validity period of the Certificate of Registration ("COR") and Professional Identification Card ("PIC") issued by the Professional Regulation Commission ("PRC").

Sec. 3. *Coverage.* This Act shall cover the CORs and PICs issued by the PRC to professionals, irrespective of whether they have already been issued or pending issuance.

Sec. 4. *Extension of Validity Period of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card.* The validity period of the CORs and PICs issued by the PRC shall be extended from three (3) years to five (5) years, provided that the rules and regulations of the PRC are adhered to. The extension of the validity period for existing CORs and PICs shall not affect the initial registration and renewal fees imposed by the PRC.

Sec. 5. *Professional Regulation Commission System Enhancement and Revision of Assessment of Annual Registration Fees.* The relevant department/s of the PRC shall develop and maintain the necessary system enhancement to operationalize this Act. The PRC shall finalize the revised assessment of the annual registration fees within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PRC shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, and administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the implementing rules and regulations, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,