

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1035



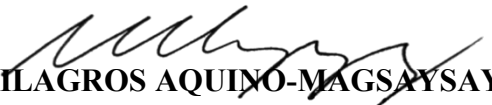
INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MILAGROS AQUINO – MAGSAYSAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant lifetime validity or no expiration period for Philippine passports issued to Filipino senior citizens.

A Philippine passport is not just an official travel document, but a valid and legal proof of one's Filipino citizenship. However, in the twilight of their years, senior citizens must be allowed to enjoy the remainder of their lives enjoying travel and freedom of movement without the tedious and inconvenient process of having to renew their passports regularly. As such, it is proposed, provided that senior citizens are able to prove their current Filipino citizenship, having never renounced such, or having re-acquired Filipino citizenship through proper procedures after having lost it, any issuance or succeeding renewal of their passport shall henceforth have a lifetime validity.

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


HON. MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MILAGROS AQUINO – MAGSAYSAY

AN ACT GRANTING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PASSPORTS
ISSUED TO FILIPINO SENIOR CITIZENS
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996”

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

**SECTION 1. SECTION 10 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine
Passport Act of 1996, is hereby amended to read as follows:**

“SECTION 10. *Validity.* – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a period of five (5) years: *Provided, however,* That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than five (5) 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.

With the exception of Filipino senior citizens applying for the issuance of, or renewal of their Philippine passports, which shall have a “lifetime” validity period already, or no expiration date once issued. *Provided,* that the senior citizens are able to prove their Filipino citizenship, never having lost it, or having lost it, has properly been re-acquired through required legal procedures.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved