



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

5597
HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 14, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall promote the sustained development of professionals by recognizing their role in nation-building and supporting their continuous growth and excellence in their respective fields. Consistent with this mandate, it is the duty of the government to ensure that regulatory systems concerning professional practice are efficient, fair, and responsive to the needs of Filipino professionals.

At present, the Professional Identification Card (PIC) issued by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) serves as an official government-issued identification and as legal proof of an individual's authority to practice a regulated profession in the Philippines. It is also widely accepted as a valid government ID in public and private transactions that require identity and credential verification.

However, under current regulations, the PIC remains valid only for a period of three (3) years. This short validity period has led to frequent renewal processes that impose financial and administrative burdens on both professionals and the PRC. According to the PRC 2023 Annual Report, the Commission serves more than five (5) million professionals across forty-six (46) regulated professions nationwide, resulting in an immense volume of renewals that continue to strain both the system and its stakeholders.

¹ Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). PRC 2023 Annual Report. Retrieved from: <https://www.prc.gov.ph/sites/default/files/PRC-2023%20Annual%20Report-for%20posting.pdf>

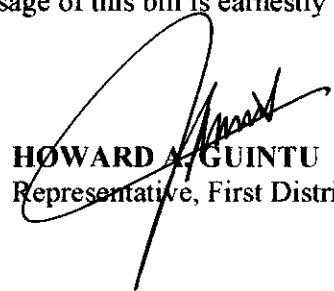
What this bill seeks to address is the inconvenience and inefficiency brought about by the short validity period of the PIC. Hence, this measure proposes to extend the validity of the PRC-issued Professional Identification Card from three (3) years to five (5) years for all regulated professions.

To ensure a smooth implementation of the proposed extension, the measure also calls for the enhancement of the PRC's Information and Communication Technology Service (ICTS) and related administrative systems. This will support the transition to a longer validity period and improve the Commission's overall efficiency in processing applications and renewals.

The primary objectives of the bill are to ensure greater stability for professionals in pursuing their careers, minimize administrative workload, and ease financial obligations associated with frequent renewals. This initiative aligns with previous government reforms extending the validity of other essential identification documents, such as the Philippine passport—from five (5) to ten (10) years under Republic Act No. 10928—and the driver's license—from five (5) to ten (10) years under Republic Act No. 10930.

Through this measure, the extension of the PRC license validity will promote convenience, efficiency, and professionalism among Filipino workers. It will also enhance the PRC's service delivery and strengthen public confidence in the country's regulatory systems.

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



HOWARD A. GUINTU
Representative, First District of Capiz



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HOUSE BILL NO. 5597

Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A FIVE-YEAR VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE PROFESSIONAL
IDENTIFICATION CARDS OF ALL PROFESSIONAL UNDER THE
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION

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

SECTION 1. All Professional Identification Cards (PICs) issued by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) shall be valid for five (5) years, subject to the compliance with all the legal and procedural requirements for its issuance.

SEC. 2. In order to operationalize the provisions of this Act, the Information and Communication Technology Service (ICTS) and other concerned offices/divisions of the PRC shall complete the necessary systems enhancement (Licensure Examination Registration Information System or the LERIS) and other administrative processes, including the finalization of the revised assessment of annual registration fees within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 3. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,