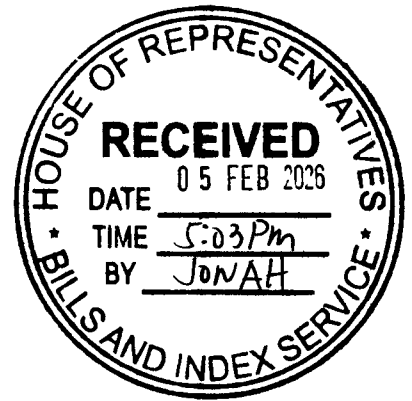


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 7643



Introduced by Representative Timothy Joseph Cayton

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE AUTHORITY TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE ISSUED TO PRIESTS, MINISTERS, RABBIS, AND IMAMS FROM THREE (3) YEARS TO TEN (10) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 95 OF THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6514, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

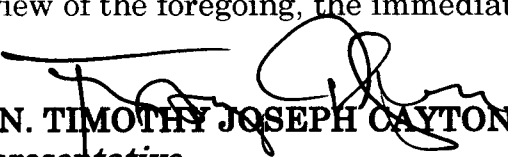
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Republic Act No. 6514, the authority to solemnize marriage issued to priests, ministers, rabbis, and imams is valid for a period of three (3) years. While intended as an administrative safeguard, this limited validity period has resulted in frequent renewals that impose unnecessary costs, processing burdens, and service interruptions for religious leaders and the Philippine Statistics Authority alike.

This measure seeks to address these concerns by extending the validity period of the authority to solemnize marriage from three (3) years to ten (10) years, without diminishing the State’s role in civil registration, record-keeping, and oversight. The authority remains subject to revocation or cancellation by the religious institution concerned or by lawful order, thereby preserving accountability.

By lengthening the validity period, this bill promotes administrative efficiency, reduces regulatory congestion, and ensures continuity of service — particularly in rural, geographically isolated, and underserved areas where access to authorized solemnizing officers is limited.

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


HON. TIMOTHY JOSEPH CAYTON
Representative
Lone District, Nueva Vizcaya

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

SECTION 1. *Amendment to Article 95 of the Civil Code of the Philippines.*—

Article 95 of the Civil Code of the Philippines, or Republic Act No. 386, as amended by Republic Act No. 6514, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“ART. 95. The public official in charge of the registration of priests, ministers, rabbis, or imams, 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] **TEN** (10) YEARS, shall expire on the thirty-first (31st) day of December of every [third] **TENTH** year, and shall be renewable within the said month of December; *Provided, further*, That 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 thirty-first day of December of the year when this amendatory Act takes effect, any regulation to the contrary notwithstanding] **ITS ORIGINAL EXPIRATION DATE**; *Provided, finally*, That the words “my authority to solemnize marriage expires on December 31, [19]20____,” shall be indicated in all marriage contracts immediately below the title of the person authorized to solemnize marriage.

Priests, ministers, rabbis, or imams belonging to a diocese, religious order, congregation, or sect may apply for authorization through their bishop, head of religious order or congregation, chief minister, or duly authorized representative.

The public official in charge of registration may, by regulation, fix and collect reasonable fees for the authorization to solemnize marriage.”

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation, contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,