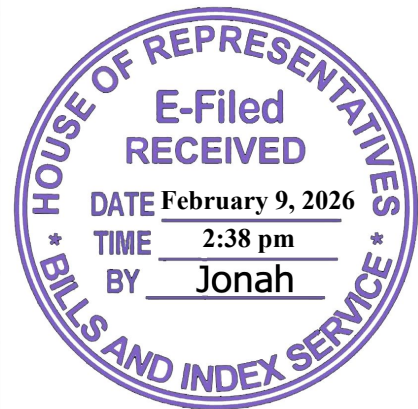


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL No. 7675



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PASSPORT ON WHEELS (POW) PROGRAM
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine passport is an essential document for international travel, employment, education, and opportunities abroad. However, Filipinos, particularly those in remote provinces, highly congested areas, and underserved communities, often face long waiting times, logistical barriers, and travel expenses in securing their passports from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

To address this gap, the DFA launched the Passport on Wheels (POW) Program, which deploys mobile passport services in coordination with local government units (LGUs), government agencies, and private sector partners. Since its launch, POW has significantly decongested DFA consular offices, expanded access to passport services, and improved efficiency by bringing government services closer to the people.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the Passport on Wheels Program, ensuring its continuity, expansion, and sustainability nationwide. It mandates the allocation of funds, the establishment of standard operating procedures, and closer partnerships with LGUs and stakeholders to guarantee equitable access to passport services, especially in underserved areas.

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


REP. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM
DUMPER PTDA Party-List

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Passport on Wheels Act.”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- a) Ensure universal and equitable access to consular services, particularly passport processing;
- b) Bring government services closer to the people through digital innovation and mobile delivery mechanisms;
- c) Reduce congestion and waiting times in DFA consular offices; and
- d) Promote efficiency, inclusivity, and citizen convenience in public service delivery.

SEC. 3. **Institutionalization of the Passport on Wheels (POW) Program.** – The Passport on Wheels Program is hereby institutionalized as a permanent program of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). It shall deploy mobile passport processing units nationwide in partnership with local government units (LGUs), government agencies, state universities and colleges (SUCs), and accredited private organizations.

SEC. 4. **Scope of Services.** – The POW Program shall provide the following services in accordance with DFA regulations:

- a) New passport applications and renewals;
- b) Replacement of lost or damaged passports;
- c) Assistance for senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), solo parents, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), and other priority sectors;
- d) Distribution and release of passports processed through POW.

SEC. 5. Standardization and Expansion. – The DFA shall:

- a) Establish standard operating procedures for the operation of POW units;
- b) Deploy mobile units in underserved and remote areas, particularly in provinces without DFA consular offices;
- c) Ensure coordination with LGUs and partner agencies for venue, manpower, and security arrangements;
- d) Integrate POW operations with the DFA's online appointment and e-payment systems.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DFA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DFA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the POW Program.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and enforceable.

SEC. 9. 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. 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,