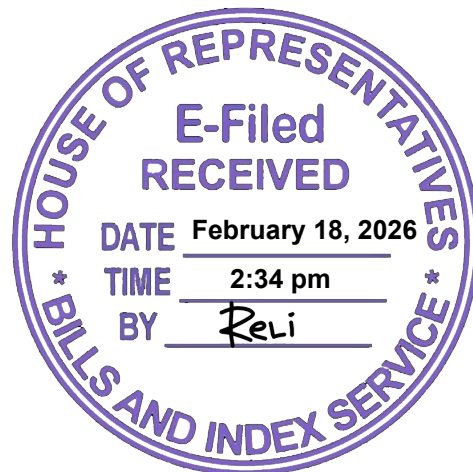


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7857



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the validity of authorization to solemnize marriage of priests, ministers, or rabbis from three (3) to (5) years. It amends Republic Act (RA) No. 6514, entitled "*An Act That the Authorization to Solemnize Marriage Issued to Priests, or Ministers or Rabbis shall be valid for a Period of Three Years, The Same to Expire on the Thirty-First Day of December of Every Third Year, Amending for the Purpose Article Ninety-Five of the Civil Code of the Philippines, And For Other Purposes*", which currently mandates a three-year expiration cycle for such authorizations.

Article 7 (2) of the Family Code of the Philippines provides that marriages may be solemnized by:

"(2) Any priest, rabbi, imam, or minister of any church or religious sect duly authorized by his church or religious sect and registered with the civil registrar general, acting within the limits of the written authority granted by his church or religious sect and provided that at least one of the contracting parties belongs to the solemnizing officer's church or religious sect;"

This proposed measure reduces the administrative burden and recurring costs imposed on religious leaders. Furthermore, this proposed measure requires priests, ministers, or rabbis to undergo an annual seminar throughout the whole duration of the validity of the authorization to solemnize marriages.

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


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7857

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
INCREASING THE VALIDITY OF AUTHORIZATION TO SOLEMNIZE
MARRIAGE OF PRIESTS, MINISTERS, OR RABBIS FROM THREE (3) TO FIVE
(5) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6514, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6514 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1. Article 95 of Republic Act Numbered Three hundred and eight-six is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Art. 95. The public official in charge of registration of priests, ministers or rabbis 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] **FIVE** years, shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of every [third] **FIFTH** year, and shall be renewable within the said month December: *Provided, further*, That the authorization 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: *Provided, finally*, That the words “my authority to solemnize marriage expires on December 31, 19__” shall be indicated in all marriage contracts just below the title of the person so authorized to solemnize marriages.

“Priests or ministers, or rabbis belonging to one diocese religious order or congregation, or sect, may apply for authorization and or renewal of such authorization through their bishop, head of religious order or congregation chief of ministers, or duly authorized representative.

“PRIEST OR MINISTERS, OR RABBIS SHALL UNDERGO AN ANNUAL SEMINAR THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE DURATION OF THE VALIDITY OF THE AUTHORIZATION TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE.”

“The public official who is in charge of registration may also by regulations fix and collect fees for the authorization to solemnize marriage.”

SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,