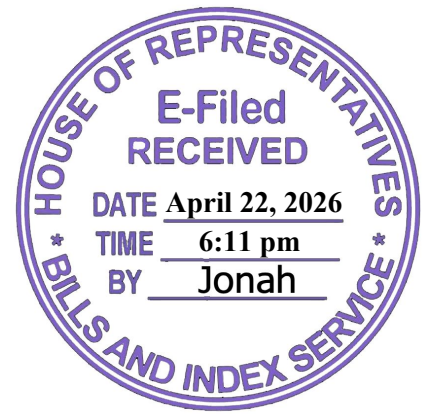


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8954



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant lifetime validity to Philippine passports issued to senior citizens, thereby easing the burden of repeated passport renewals and recognizing the needs and contributions of the elderly sector.

Under existing law, Philippine passports are issued with limited validity, requiring periodic renewal regardless of age. While this system ensures updated identification records, it also imposes logistical, financial, and physical burdens on senior citizens, many of whom face mobility constraints, health challenges, and limited access to passport processing facilities. The process of securing appointments, traveling to consular offices, and complying with documentary requirements can be particularly taxing for elderly individuals.

This measure addresses these concerns by allowing passports issued or renewed upon reaching sixty (60) years of age to have lifetime validity. At the same time, the measure retains safeguards by allowing the government to limit passport validity when necessary in the interest of national security, economic stability, or other compelling considerations. It also provides for the issuance of new passports when required, ensuring that the integrity of the passport system is maintained.

By removing the need for repeated renewals, the bill promotes convenience, reduces unnecessary expenses, and ensures that senior citizens can continue to access identification and travel documents without undue hardship, while simplifying access to essential government services and reducing bureaucratic barriers that disproportionately affect them.

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. **8954**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT

GRANTING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS ISSUED TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996", AS AMENDED

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 "*Senior Citizens' Lifetime Passport Act*".

SEC. 2. *Validity.* – Section 10 of Republic Act (RA) No. 8239, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Passport Act of 1996*", as amended by RA No. 10928, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. *Validity.* – Regular passports issued **TO INDIVIDUALS FROM EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE** under this Act shall be valid for a period of ten (10) years: *Provided, however,* That for individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, only a passport with five (5)- year validity shall be issued, **AND FOR SENIOR CITIZENS ISSUED OR RENEWED AT THE AGE OF SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD SHALL HAVE LIFETIME VALIDITY:** *Provided, further,* That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than ten (10) 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."

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, the Department of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the National Commission on Senior Citizens shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* - Should any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid, the other provisions or sections of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,