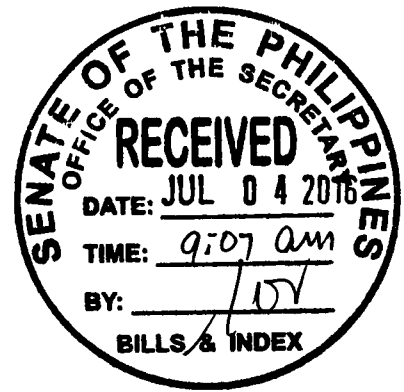


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S. B. No. 275

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MORE RESPONSIVE
CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

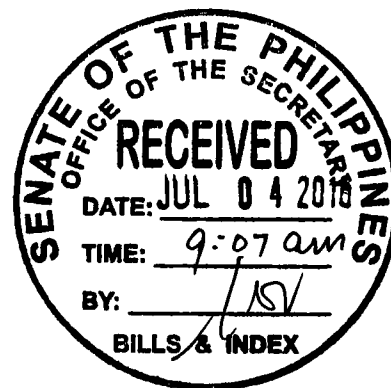
It is undeniably a State policy to promote and maintain a responsive civil registration system equipped with efficient and simple sets of procedure for the listing of vital occurrences and characteristics of a person such as birth, marriage, death and judicial and administrative orders.

This bill is but in accord with the above State policy. It provides for a comprehensive registration system of an individual's civil status. Such comprehensiveness involves a detailed enumeration of the powers and functions of Civil Registrars as well as the procedures involved in registration.

In view of the foregoing, the undersigned earnestly seeks the immediate passage of this bill.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

S. B. No. 275

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MORE RESPONSIVE
CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Civil Registration Act."
2

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State shall promote and maintain a more
4 responsive civil registration system. Towards this end, standardization and
5 modernization of registration procedures is necessary to establish the identity of the
6 individual for administrative and legal purposes. Moreover, efficient and simplified
7 procedures in recording vital events must be applied in civil registration for the benefit
8 of the general public.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** - This law shall embrace all acts affecting the civil status of
11 persons in the Philippines and all Filipinos abroad.
12

13 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** - (a) "Civil Registration" refers to the continuous,
14 permanent and compulsory documentation of occurrence and characteristics of vital
15 events, including any modifications thereof during the lifetime of a person, namely
16 births, deaths, marriages, judicial and administrative orders and legal instruments.
17

18 b) "Civil Register" refers to the various civil registry books where events and
19 judicial decrees concerning the civil status of persons are recorded, and to related
20 certificates and documents kept in the archives of the Local Civil Registry Office,
21 Philippine Consulates, National Statistics Office and Shari'a District or Circuit
22 Courts.
23

24 c) "Civil Registry Documents" refers to all certificates and documents relating to
25 civil status of persons which are recorded and kept in the archives of the Local
26 Civil Registry Office, Philippine Consulates, National Statistics Office and Shari'a
27 District or Circuit Courts.
28

29 d) "Civil Registrar General" refers to the head of the National Statistics Office.
30

31 e) "Civil Registrar" refers to the head of the Local Civil Registrar Office (LCRO) or
32 the City or Municipal Civil Registrar (C/MCR), the Consul General, Consul or
33 Vice Consul and the Clerk of Shari'a District or Circuit Courts.

- 1
2 f) "District or Circuit Registrar" refers to the Clerk of Shari'a District or Circuit
3 Court performing civil registration functions with regard to Muslim marriages,
4 divorces, revocations of divorce and conversions under Title VI, Book Two of
5 Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise known as the Code of Muslim Personal
6 Laws.
7
8 g) "Barangay Civil Registration System" refers to a strategy to facilitate civil
9 registration at the barangay level where all the barangay officials shall assist the
10 C/MCR in civil registration work, as provided for under Section 394(d)(5),
11 Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of the
12 Philippines.
13
14 h) "Legal Instruments" refers to the affidavits/affirmations pertaining to civil
15 registration.
16

17 **SEC. 5. Duties and Functions of the Civil Registrar General.** - The Civil Registrar
18 General shall have the following duties and functions:
19

- 20 (a) Enforce the provisions of this Act;
21 (b) Prepare and issue rules and regulations pertaining to civil registration;
22 (c) Exercise technical direction and supervision over the C/MCRs and other local
23 civil registry officers;
24 (d) Give orders and instructions to the C/MCRs on civil registration;
25 (e) Endorse for investigation any complaint for violation of this Act and all
26 irregularities to the local chief executive and other duly authorized agencies;
27 (f) Reproduce and issue documents under its custody and prepare and order the
28 printing of necessary forms; and
29 (g) Determine and prescribe standard fees for civil registry documents.
30

31 **SEC. 6. Duties of the City/Municipal Civil Registrar (VMCR).** - The appointment of
32 the C/MCRs shall be mandatory for city and municipal governments, The C/MCR
33 shall be responsible for the civil registration programs in the local government unit
34 (LGU) concerned pursuant to this Act and other pertinent laws and implementing rules
35 and regulations. The C/MCR shall develop plans and strategies and upon approval
36 thereof by the governor or mayor, as the case may be, implement the same, particularly
37 those which have to do with civil registry programs and projects which the mayor is
38 empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide for. The
39 C/MCR shall:
40

- 41 (a) Register all registrable events occurring within their jurisdiction;
42 (b) File registrable certificates and documents presented to them for entry;
43 (c) Compile the registrable certificates and documents monthly and prepare and
44 send any information required of them by the Civil Registrar Genral;
45 (d) Issue certified transcripts or copies of any certificate or document registered
46 upon payment of the proper fees;
47 (e) Order the binding, properly classified, of all certificates or documents
48 registered during the year;
49 (f) Send to the Civil Registrar General, within the first ten (10) days of each
50 month, a copy of entries made during the preceding month;
51 (g) Index all entries to facilitate search and identification in case any information
52 is required;
53 (h) Administer oaths for civil registry purposes free of charge;

- 1 (i) Accept all registrable documents and judicial decrees/orders affecting the
2 civil status of persons;
- 3 (j) File, keep and preserve in a secured place the books required by law;
- 4 (k) Transcribe and enter immediately upon receipt all registrable documents and
5 judicial decrees affecting the civil status of persons in the appropriate civil
6 registry books;
- 7 (l) Receive applications for the insurance of a marriage license and, after
8 determining that the requirements, supporting certificates and publication
9 thereof for the prescribed period have been complied with, issue the license
10 upon payment of the authorized fee to the treasurer;
- 11 (m) Coordinate with the Office of the Civil Registrar 1 General (OCRG) in
12 conducting educational campaigns for vital registration and assist in the
13 preparation of demographic and other statistics for the LGU concerned;
- 14 (n) Recommend to the Civil Registrar General systems and procedures relative to
15 the formulation of policies, rules and regulations on civil registration;
- 16 (o) Submit status reports on the condition of civil registry documents filed in the
17 civil registry office whenever there are changes in the previous status of files;
- 18 (p) Observe faithful compliance to rules and regulations pertaining to civil
19 registration;
- 20 (q) Reconstruct destroyed civil registry records upon compliance with the
21 requirements and procedures established by the OCRG; and
- 22 (r) Make available at all times the civil registry forms in the C/MCR office.
- 23

24 **SEC. 7. *Civil Registry Book.*** - The C/MCRs shall keep and preserve in their offices
25 the following books in which they shall accordingly enter the proper record concerning
26 the civil status of persons: (1) Register of Births; (2) Register of Foundlings; (3) Register
27 of Deaths; (4) Register of Marriages; (5) Register of Court Decrees or Orders; (6) Register
28 of Legal Instruments; (7) Register of Applications for Marriage License; (8) Register of
29 Conversions to Islam; (9) Register of Muslim Divorces; (10) Register of Revocations of
30 Muslim Divorces; (11) Register of Indigenous Cultural Communities or Indigenous
31 Peoples (ICCs/IPs) Marriage Dissolutions; (12) Register of ICCs/IPs Revocations of
32 Marriage Dissolutions; and (13) Register of Administrative Orders.

33

34 **SEC. 8. *Registration and Certification of Birth.*** - The declaration of the physician,
35 midwife, nurse, attendant at birth, or in default thereof, the declaration of either or both
36 parents or any person who has knowledge of the facts of birth of the newborn child
37 shall be sufficient for the registration of birth in the civil register. The duly
38 accomplished Certificate of Live Birth (COLB) containing the above declaration shall be
39 submitted for registration to the C/MCR of the place where the birth occurred within
40 thirty (30) days from the date of birth by the person making the declaration. The COLB
41 shall declare the following: (a) name of the child; (b) sex; (c) date of birth; (d) place of
42 birth; (e) name of mother; (f) name of father; (g) citizenship of the mother; (h)
43 citizenship of the father; (i) date of marriage of parents; (j) place of marriage of parents;
44 and (k) such other data as required in the regulation to be issued.

45

46 Abandoned children or foundlings whose parents, guardians or relatives are
47 unknown, or children committed to an orphanage or a charitable institution with
48 unknown facts of birth and parentage, shall be registered by the finder or charitable
49 institution concerned within thirty (30) days from the date of finding or commitment of
50 the child with the CjMCR of the place where the child was found. A person who has not
51 been registered with the C/MCR of the place where such person was born within the
52 prescribed period of thirty (30) days may be allowed delayed registration.

53

1 A deceased person's birth may also be registered on a delayed registration basis
2 by his/her nearest kin. However, the informant and affiant must show authentic proof
3 of the identity of the person registered, the facts of his/her birth and parentage, and
4 other relevant data.

5
6 Out-of-town registration of birth may be allowed.

7
8 The record of a person's birth shall be kept strictly confidential and no
9 information relating thereto shall be issued except upon request by any of the
10 following:

- 11
12 (a) The concerned person or any person authorized by him/her;
13 (b) The person's spouse, parent/s or direct descendants, or guardian or
14 institutions legally in-charge of him/her, is such person is a minor;
15 (c) The court or proper public officials, when deemed absolutely necessary in
16 administrative, judicial or other official proceedings to determine the identity
17 of the person's parents or other circumstance surrounding his/her birth; or
18 (d) The nearest kin, in the case of deceased persons.

19
20 **SEC. 9. Registration and Certification of Death.** - No human body shall be buried
21 unless the proper death certificate has been presented and recorded with the C/MCR.
22 The physician who attended to the deceased or, in his default, the health officer
23 concerned, or in default of the latter, any member of the family of the deceased, or any
24 person having knowledge of the death, shall report the same to the local health
25 authorities who shall issue a death certificate and shall order the same to be recorded
26 with the C/MCR. The death certificate shall be accomplished by the attending
27 physician or, in his default, by the proper health officer. It shall contain the following
28 data which may be furnished by the person reporting the death (a) full name of the
29 deceased; (b) sex; (c) age; (d) civil status; (e) nationality; (f) date of death; (g) place of
30 death; (h) cause of death; and (i) such other data that may be required.

31
32 The surname used by the deceased person, when still living, will be the surname
33 to be used in the death certificate. Registration shall be made within thirty (30) days
34 from the time of death with the C/MCR of the place where the death occurred.

35
36 In the absence of the health officer or his authorized representative in the place of
37 registration, or when it is a nonworking day and the health officer or his authorized
38 representative is not expected to be in his/her office, the death should be reported
39 within forty-eight (48) hours after its occurrence by the nearest kin of the deceased or by
40 any person having knowledge of the death to the mayor, any member of the
41 Sangguniang Bayan, or the municipal secretary, who shall issue and sign the medical
42 certification portion of the Certificate of Death for burial and registration purposes.

43
44 When the death is under medico-legal examination, or where a case of death is
45 under investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) or other investigative
46 agency of the government, and where the body of the deceased is subjected to an
47 autopsy or examination by the medico-legal officers and the deceased has not been
48 registered in the place of death, the head of the NBI or other investigative agency or
49 their authorized representative shall cause the registration of such death through the
50 health officer of the city or municipality where the death occurred. The medico-legal
51 officer shall accomplish and sign the medical certification of the Certificate of Death.

1 Registration of fetal death shall follow the same procedures in the registration of
2 death. A death not registered within the prescribed thirty (30) day period may be
3 allowed delayed registration with the C/MCR of the place where the death occurred.
4

5 Out-of-town registration of death may also be allowed.
6

7 **SEC. 10. *Registration of Marriage License.*** - The local civil registrar concerned shall
8 enter all applications for marriage licenses filed with him/her in a registry book strictly
9 in the order in which the same are received. He/she shall record in said book the names
10 of the applicants, the date on which the marriage license was issued and such other data
11 as may be necessary.
12

13 **SEC. 11. *Application for Marriage License.*** - All applications for marriage license
14 shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise
15 known as the Family Code of the Philippines, as amended.
16

17 **SEC. 12. *Registration and Certification of Marriage.*** - All civil officers, priests,
18 ministers, wali, imam and tribal leaders authorized to solemnize marriage shall send
19 four copies of the Certificate of Marriage for registration with the C/MCR of the place
20 where the marriage was solemnized within fifteen (15) days after the marriage.
21 Marriages exempt from the license requirement shall be registered within thirty (30)
22 days after the marriage in the city or municipality where it was solemnized.
23

24 A person whose marriage has not yet been registered with the C/MCR of the
25 place where the marriage was solemnized or celebrated may be allowed delayed
26 registration.
27

28 Out-of-town registration of marriage may also be allowed.
29

30 **SEC. 13. *Multiple Registration.*** - In cases of multiple registration of birth, marriage
31 or death, the first duly registered document shall prevail. However, in cases of multiple
32 marriages occurring to the same parties, it shall be the first valid marriage that shall
33 prevail.
34

35 **SEC. 14. *Registration of Solemnizing Officers.*** - Except as may otherwise be
36 provided by law or existing rules, all solemnizing officers shall be registered with the
37 Office of the Civil Registrar General. The C/MCRs may assist the local chief executive
38 in determining documents pertaining to the existence of religious sects.
39

40 **SEC. 15. *Registration of Court Orders.*** - In case a court issues an order concerning
41 the status of a person, it shall be the duty of the clerk of court to advise the successful
42 petitioner to have the order registered with the C/MCR of the place where the court is
43 functioning. If a person other than the petitioner shall register the order, the C/MCR
44 shall verify if the copy of the order is authentic. Unverified copies shall be refused
45 registration. The LCRO where the event of the order was registered shall forward a
46 certified true copy of the order to the C/MCR where the event affected was originally
47 registered. The latter shall make the proper annotations in the document and in the
48 applicable registry book. He/she shall likewise send a certified true copy of the
49 annotated document and the registered court order to the OCRG. Each corrected
50 document shall be reported to the OCRG during the usual reporting month. All court
51 orders shall be registered within fifteen (15) days after its finality. Registration after the
52 prescribed period shall be considered delayed registration.
53

1 All court orders shall be effected through annotations in the civil registry
2 document except in adoption cases where the child shall be entitled to the issuance of
3 an amended birth certificate.
4

5 **SEC. 16. *Registration of Adoption.*** - After the court decision on an adoption has
6 become final and executory, the Original Certificate of Live Birth shall be amended. An
7 amended certificate of live birth of the adopted shall be issued by the C/MCR of the
8 place where the birth of the adopted child was recorded. It shall have the same entries
9 as those appearing in the:
10

- 11 a) Name of the adopted - the first name of the adopted child shall be the same as
12 that in the original certificate of live birth unless the order of adoption carried an
13 order changing it to another name. The middle name of the adopted child shall
14 be the same as the middle name of the adopter, except when the husband and the
15 wife jointly adopted the child, in which case, the middle name of the adopted
16 shall be the surname of the adopting mother. The surname of the adopted child
17 shall be that of the adopter. If the husband and wife jointly adopt the child, the
18 adopted child shall use the surname of the adopting father.
- 19 b) Names of parents - the names of the natural parents of the adopted child shall be
20 substituted by the names of the adopting parents whose names shall be indicated
21 in the appropriate spaces in the amended certificate of live birth as the father or
22 mother, as the case may be; and
- 23 c) Other information - other information about the adopting parents such as
24 citizenship and religion shall be indicated in the appropriate spaces in the
25 amended certificate of live birth, including the date and place of marriage of the
26 adopting parents, in cases where the husband and wife jointly made the
27 adoption. In case the adopted child is a foundling, the basis for issuance of an
28 amended certificate of live birth shall be the court order.
29

30 **SEC. 17. *Registration of Presumptive Death.*** - A judicial order or decree declaring a
31 person presumably dead shall be registered with the C/MCR of the place where the
32 first marriage was registered. Annotations for the purpose of contracting a subsequent
33 marriage shall be recorded in the marriage register as well as in the marriage certificate.
34

35 **SEC. 18. *Registration of Court Orders Decided Abroad.*** - All foreign court orders
36 involving civil status of persons shall be registered in the LCRO of Manila.
37

38 **SEC. 19. *Registration of Legal Instruments.*** - As a general rule, all legal instruments
39 shall be registered in the civil registry of the place where they were executed except the
40 following:

- 41 a) Affidavit of reappearance - where the parties to the subsequent marriage are
42 residing;
- 43 b) Marriage settlement - where the marriage was recorded; and
- 44 c) Admission of paternity, acknowledgment, legitimation, voluntary
45 emancipation of minor, artificial insemination - where the birth of the child
46 was recorded. All legal instruments executed abroad shall be registered in the
47 LCRO of Manila including all legal instruments which may be executed in the
48 Philippines if the vital events referred to in the latter instruments occurred in
49 a foreign country and are duly registered with the Philippine Consulate. All
50 legal instruments shall be effected through annotation in the civil registry
51 document.
52

1 **SEC. 20. *Registration of Affidavit of Reappearance.*** - A sworn statement of the facts
2 and circumstances of reappearance shall be recorded in the civil registry office of the
3 residence of the parties to the subsequent marriage at the instance of any interested
4 person, with due notice to the spouses of the subsequent marriage and without
5 prejudice to the fact of reappearance being judicially determined in case such fact is
6 disputed.

7
8 **SEC. 21. *Registration of Affidavit of Acknowledgment OY Affidavit of Admission of***
9 ***Paternity.*** - It shall be the duty of the parent/s who executed the affidavit of
10 acknowledgment or of admission of paternity to send the original copy of the affidavit
11 to the C/MCR where the birth of the child was registered, for registration in the
12 Register of Legal Instruments and proper annotation in the Register of Births.

13
14 **SEC. 22. *Authorization or Ratification of Artificial Insemination.*** - Children
15 conceived as a result of artificial insemination of the wife with the sperm of the husband
16 or that of a donor or both shall be considered legitimate children of the husband and
17 wife: Provided, That both of them authorized or ratified such insemination in a written
18 instrument executed and signed by both of them before the birth of the child. The
19 instrument shall be recorded in the civil register together with the birth certificate of the
20 child.

21
22 **SEC. 23. *Option to Elect Philippine Citizenship.*** - The option to elect Philippine
23 citizenship in accordance with Section (3), Article IV of the Constitution shall be
24 expressed in a statement to be signed and sworn to by the party concerned before any
25 officer authorized to administer oaths, and shall be filed and registered with the
26 C/MCR of the place where the instrument was executed. Election of Philippine
27 citizenship executed, subscribed and sworn to before a Consular Officer of the
28 Philippine Embassy abroad, together with the oath of allegiance, shall be registered
29 with the LCRO of Manila.

30
31 **SEC. 24. *Registration of Repatriation.*** - The instrument of repatriation and the oath
32 of allegiance to the Constitution and the government of the Philippines shall be filed
33 with the C/MCR of the place where the instrument was executed: Provided, That if the
34 Philippine citizenship is reacquired by naturalization, the order of the court granting
35 citizenship shall be recorded in the Register of Court Order.

36
37 **SEC. 25. *Registration of Muslim Filipinos, Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) or***
38 ***Indigenous Peoples (IPS) and Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP).*** - Muslims
39 Filipinos, ICCs/IPs and CNSP, by reason of their socio-cultural, religious and
40 peculiarities shall be registered as follows:

- 41
42 a) Muslim Filipinos civil registration shall be governed by Presidential Decree
43 No. 1083, Executive Order No. 157 and Administrative Order No. 1, Series of
44 2005.
45 b) ICCs/IPs civil registration shall be governed by Republic Act No. 8371 and
46 Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2004.
47 c) CNSP civil registration shall follow the procedures provided under OCRG
48 Memorandum Circular 2004-01 and other promulgations by the OCRG in
49 coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and
50 other concerned agencies.

51
52 **SEC. 26. *Barangay Civil Registration System (BCRS).*** - All elected or appointed
53 barangay officials shall assist in the civil registration within their area of jurisdiction

1 through the BCRS. The OCRG shall issue guidelines governing the implementation of
2 the System.

3
4 **SEC. 27. *Civil Registry Documents are Public Documents.*** - The registry books
5 making up the civil register and all documents relating thereto shall be considered
6 public documents and shall be prima facie evidence of the truth of the facts therein
7 contained. They shall be open to the public during office hours and shall be kept in a
8 secured place that shall be furnished to the civil registrar at the expense or thru the
9 funds of the municipality concerned. The civil registrar shall not, under any
10 circumstances, permit any document entrusted to &/her care to be removed from
11 his/her office, except upon lawful order of the court, in which case the proper receipt
12 shall be secured. The civil registrar may issue certified copies of any documents filed
13 upon payment of proper fees fixed by municipal ordinance.

14
15 **SEC. 28. *Expense of the Office of the Civil Registrar.*** - All expenses in connection
16 with the establishment and operations of the civil registrar's office shall be paid out of
17 municipal funds and for this purpose, the sanggunian of municipalities or cities
18 concerned shall make the necessary appropriation available.

19
20 **SEC. 29. *Fees.*** - Registration of births, 1 foundlings, deaths and marriages is
21 mandatory and compulsory and shall be free of charge. For registration of court orders,
22 legal instruments and registrable administrative orders, a standard fee shall be
23 collected. The LGU may collect reasonable service fees. For issuance of copies of civil
24 registry documents, a standard fee shall be collected.

25
26 **SEC. 30. *False Statements.*** - Any person who shall knowingly make false
27 statements in the forms furnished and present the same for entry in the civil registers
28 shall be penalized in accordance with law.

29
30 **SEC. 31. *Failure to Report and other Violations.*** - Any person whose duty is to
31 report any fact concerning the civil status of persons and who knowingly fails to
32 perform such duty, or any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be punished
33 in accordance with law. Any civil registrar who fails to properly perform his/her duties
34 in accordance with the provisions of this Act or of the regulations issued there under
35 shall be punished in accordance with law. Any violation of the preceding provisions
36 shall be penalized by imprisonment of one year or a fine ranging from Five thousand
37 pesos (PhP5,000.00) to Ten thousand pesos (PhP10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of
38 the court. The attending physician, nurse, midwife, hospital administrator or any
39 person in charge of the certificate of live birth who knowingly fails or withholds the
40 delivery of copies of the certificate to the C/MCR shall be penalized by imprisonment
41 of not more than six months or a fine of not more than Five thousand pesos
42 (PhP5,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

43
44 Any officer, priest or minister who: (1) Solemnizes marriage without being
45 authorized by the Civil Registrar General; (2) Upon solemnizing marriage, refuses to
46 exhibit his authorization when called upon to do so by the parties, their parents or
47 guardians; (3) Authorizes the immediate solemnization of a marriage that is
48 subsequently declared illegal by his church, religion or sect, the regulations and
49 practices of which require bans or publications previous to the solemnization of
50 marriage; or (4) Solemnizes marriage in violation of the provisions of this Act, shall be
51 punished with imprisonment ranging from six months to three years, or a fine ranging
52 from One thousand pesos (PhP1,000.00) to Five thousand pesos (PhP5,000.00), or the
53 revocation of his/her authority to solemnize marriage, or all three penalties or

1 combination thereof, at the discretion of the court. Any officer, priest or minister who
2 fails to deliver copies of the certificate of marriage to the C/MCR within the period
3 fixed by law shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than six months, or by a
4 fine of not more than Five thousand pesos (PhP5,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the
5 court.

6
7 **SEC. 32. *Mandatory Review.*** - This Act shall undergo a mandatory review of its
8 provisions by Congress every ten (10) years.

9
10 **SEC. 33. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held to
11 be invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected
12 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

13
14 **SEC. 34. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, rules, regulations, orders, memoranda or
15 circulars inconsistent with this Act are hereby revoked, repealed or modified
16 accordingly.

17
18 **SEC. 35. *Retroactivity.*** - This Act shall have retroactive effect insofar as it does not
19 prejudice or impair vested or acquired rights.

20
21 **SEC. 36. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two national newspapers of general
23 circulation.

24
25 *Approved,*
26
27