

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 JUL 27 1954

SENATE

S. No. 2111

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 27 110 54

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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
2 Registration Act."

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

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

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

16 b) "Civil Register" refers to the various civil registry books where events
17 and judicial decrees concerning the civil status of persons are recorded,
18 and to related certificates and documents kept in the archives of the

1 Local Civil Registry Office, Philippine Consulates, National Statistics
2 Office and Shari'a District or Circuit Courts.

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

7 d) "Civil Registrar General" refers to the head of the National Statistics
8 Office.

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

13 f) "District or Circuit Registrar" refers to the Clerk of Shari'a District or
14 Circuit Court performing civil registration functions with regard to
15 Muslim marriages, divorces, revocations of divorce and conversions
16 under Title VI, Book Two of Presidential Decree No. 1083, otherwise
17 known as the Code of Muslim Personal Laws.

18 g) "Barangay Civil Registration System" refers to a strategy to facilitate
19 civil registration at the barangay level where all the barangay officials
20 shall assist the C/MCR in civil registration work, as provided for
21 under Section 394(d)(5), Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as
22 the Local Government Code of the Philippines.

23 h) "Legal Instruments" refers to the affidavits/affirmations pertaining to
24 civil registration.

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

27 (a) Enforce the provisions of this Act;

28 (b) Prepare and issue rules and regulations pertaining to civil
29 registration;

- 1 (c) Exercise technical direction and supervision over the C/MCRs and
2 other local civil registry officers;
- 3 (d) Give orders and instructions to the C/MCRs on civil registration;
- 4 (e) Endorse for investigation any complaint for violation of this Act
5 and all irregularities to the local chief executive and other duly
6 authorized agencies;
- 7 (f) Reproduce and issue documents under its custody and prepare and
8 order the printing of necessary forms; and
- 9 (g) Determine and prescribe standard fees for civil registry documents.

10 **SEC. 6. Duties of the City/Municipal Civil Registrar (VMCR).** - The
11 appointment of the C/MCRs shall be mandatory for city and municipal
12 governments, The C/MCR shall be responsible for the civil registration
13 programs in the local government unit (LGU) concerned pursuant to this Act
14 and other pertinent laws and implementing rules and regulations. The
15 C/MCR shall develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by the
16 governor or mayor, as the case may be, implement the same, particularly
17 those which have to do with civil registry programs and projects which the
18 mayor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered
19 to provide for. The C/MCR shall:

- 20 (a) Register all registrable events occurring within their jurisdiction;
- 21 (b) File registrable certificates and documents presented to them for
22 entry;
- 23 (c) Compile the registrable certificates and documents monthly and
24 prepare and send any information required of them by the Civil
25 Registrar Genral;
- 26 (d) Issue certified transcripts or copies of any certificate or document
27 registered upon payment of the proper fees;
- 28 (e) Order the binding, properly classified, of all certificates or
29 documents registered during the year;

- 1 (f) Send to the Civil Registrar General, within the first ten (10) days of
2 each month, a copy of entries made during the preceding month;
- 3 (g) Index all entries to facilitate search and identification in case any
4 information is required;
- 5 (h) Administer oaths for civil registry purposes free of charge;
- 6 (i) Accept all registrable documents and judicial decrees/orders
7 affecting the civil status of persons;
- 8 (j) File, keep and preserve in a secured place the books required by
9 law;
- 10 (k) Transcribe and enter immediately upon receipt all registrable
11 documents and judicial decrees affecting the civil status of persons
12 in the appropriate civil registry books;
- 13 (l) Receive applications for the insurance of a marriage license and,
14 after determining that the requirements, supporting certificates and
15 publication thereof for the prescribed period have been compiled
16 with, issue the license upon payment of the authorized fee to the
17 treasurer;
- 18 (m) Coordinate with the Office of the Civil Registrar 1 General
19 (OCRG) in conducting educational campaigns for vital registration
20 and assist in the preparation of demographic and other statistics for
21 the LGU concerned;
- 22 (n) Recommend to the Civil Registrar General systems and procedures
23 relative to the formulation of policies, rules and regulations on civil
24 registration;
- 25 (o) Submit status reports on the condition of civil registry documents
26 filed in the civil registry office whenever there are changes in the
27 previous status of files;
- 28 (p) Observe faithful compliance to rules and regulations pertaining to
29 civil registration;

1 (q) Reconstruct destroyed civil registry records upon compliance with
2 the requirements and procedures established by the OCRG; and

3 (r) Make available at all times the civil registry forms in the C/MCR
4 office.

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

16 **SEC. 8. *Registration and Certification of Birth.*** - The declaration of the
17 physician, midwife, nurse, attendant at birth, or in default thereof, the
18 declaration of either or both parents or any person who has knowledge of the
19 facts of birth of the newborn child shall be sufficient for the registration of
20 birth in the civil register. The duly accomplished Certificate of Live Birth
21 (COLB) containing the above declaration shall be submitted for registration to
22 the C/MCR of the place where the birth occurred within thirty (30) days from
23 the date of birth by the person making the declaration. The COLB shall
24 declare the following: (a) name of the child; (b) sex; (c) date of birth; (d) place
25 of birth; (e) name of mother; (f) name of father; (g) citizenship of the mother;
26 (h) citizenship of the father; (i) date of marriage of parents; (j) place of
27 marriage of parents; and (k) such other data as required in the regulation to
28 be issued.

29 Abandoned children or foundlings whose parents, guardians or
30 relatives are unknown, or children committed to an orphanage or a charitable
31 institution with unknown facts of birth and parentage, shall be registered by
32 the finder or charitable institution concerned within thirty (30) days from the
33 date of finding or commitment of the child with the CjMCR of the place

1 where the child was found. A person who has not been registered with the
2 C/MCR of the place where such person was born within the prescribed
3 period of thirty (30) days may be allowed delayed registration.

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

8 Out-of-town registration of birth may be allowed.

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

- 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, if such person is a minor;
- 15 (c) The court or proper public officials, when deemed absolutely
16 necessary in administrative, judicial or other official proceedings to
17 determine the identity of the person's parents or other circumstance
18 surrounding his/her birth; or
- 19 (d) The nearest kin, in the case of deceased persons.

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

1 place of death; (h) cause of death; and (i) such other data that may be
2 required.

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

7 In the absence of the health officer or his authorized representative in
8 the place of registration, or when it is a nonworking day and the health officer
9 or his authorized representative is not expected to be in l&/her office, the
10 death should be reported within forty-eight (48) hours after its occurrence by
11 the nearest kin of the deceased or by any person having knowledge of the
12 death to the mayor, any member of the sangguniang bayan, or the municipal
13 secretary, who shall issue and sign the medical certification portion of the
14 Certificate of Death for burial and registration purposes.

15 When the death is under medico-legal examination, or where a case of
16 death is under investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) or
17 other investigative agency of the government, and where the body of the
18 deceased is subjected to an autopsy or examination by the medico-legal
19 officers and the deceased has not been registered in the place of death, the
20 head of the NBI or other investigative agency or their authorized
21 representative shall cause the registration of such death through the health
22 officer of the city or municipality where the death occurred. The medico-legal
23 officer shall accomplish and sign the medical certification of the Certificate of
24 Death.

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

29 Out-of-town registration of death may also be allowed.

30 **SEC. 10. *Registration of Marriage License.*** - The local civil registrar
31 concerned shall enter all applications for marriage licenses filed with him/her
32 in a registry book strictly in the order in which the same are received. He/she

1 shall record in said book the names of the applicants, the date on which the
2 marriage license was issued and such other data as may be necessary.

3 **SEC. 11. *Application for Marriage License.*** - All applications for marriage
4 license shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Executive Order No.
5 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines, as amended.

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

13 A person whose marriage has not yet been registered with the C/MCR
14 of the place where the marriage was solemnized or celebrated may be allowed
15 delayed registration.

16 Out-of-town registration of marriage may also be allowed.

17 **SEC. 13. *Multiple Registration.*** - In cases of multiple registration of birth,
18 marriage or death, the first duly registered document shall prevail. However,
19 in cases of multiple marriages occurring to the same parties, it shall be the
20 first valid marriage that shall prevail.

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

26 **SEC. 15. *Registration of Court Orders.*** - In case a court issues an order
27 concerning the status of a person, it shall be the duty of the clerk of court to
28 advise the successful petitioner to have the order registered with the C/MCR
29 of the place where the court is functioning. If a person other than the
30 petitioner shall register the order, the C/MCR shall verify if the copy of the
31 order is authentic. Unverified copies shall be refused registration. The LCRO

1 where the event of the order was registered shall forward a certified true copy
2 of the order to the C/MCR where the event affected was originally registered.
3 The latter shall make the proper annotations in the document and in the
4 applicable registry book. He/she shall likewise send a certified true copy of
5 the annotated document and the registered court order to the OCRG. Each
6 corrected document shall be reported to the OCRG during the usual reporting
7 month. All court orders shall be registered within fifteen (15) days after its
8 finality. Registration after the prescribed period shall be considered delayed
9 registration.

10 All court orders shall be effected through annotations in the civil
11 registry document except in adoption cases where the child shall be entitled
12 to the issuance of an amended birth certificate.

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

18 a) Name of the adopted - the first name of the adopted child shall be the
19 same as that in the original certificate of live birth unless the order of
20 adoption carried an order changing it to another name. The middle
21 name of the adopted child shall be the same as the middle name of the
22 adopter, except when the husband and the wife jointly adopted the
23 child, in which case, the middle name of the adopted shall be the
24 surname of the adopting mother. The surname of the adopted child
25 shall be that of the adopter. If the husband and wife jointly adopt the
26 child, the adopted child shall use the surname of the adopting father.

27 b) Names of parents - the names of the natural parents of the adopted
28 child shall be substituted by the names of the adopting parents whose
29 names shall be indicated in the appropriate spaces in the amended
30 certificate of live birth as the father or mother, as the case may be; and

31 c) Other information - other information about the adopting parents such
32 as citizenship and religion shall be indicated in the appropriate spaces
33 in the amended certificate of live birth, including the date and place of

1 marriage of the adopting parents, in cases where the husband and wife
2 jointly made the adoption. In case the adopted child is a foundling, the
3 basis for issuance of an amended certificate of live birth shall be the
4 court order.

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

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

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

- 16 a) Affidavit of reappearance - where the parties to the subsequent
17 marriage are residing;
- 18 b) Marriage settlement - where the marriage was recorded; and
- 19 c) Admission of paternity, acknowledgment, legitimation, voluntary
20 emancipation of minor, artificial insemination - where the birth of
21 the child was recorded. All legal instruments executed abroad shall
22 be registered in the LCRO of Manila including all legal instruments
23 which may be executed in the Philippines if the vital events referred
24 to in the latter instruments occurred in a foreign country and are
25 duly registered with the Philippine Consulate. All legal instruments
26 shall be effected through annotation in the civil registry document.

27 **SEC. 20. *Registration of Affidavit of Reappearance.*** - A sworn statement of
28 the facts and circumstances of reappearance shall be recorded in the civil
29 registry office of the residence of the parties to the subsequent marriage at the
30 instance of any interested person, with due notice to the spouses of the

1 subsequent marriage and without prejudice to the fact of reappearance being
2 judicially determined in case such fact is disputed.

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

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

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

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

31 **SEC. 25.** *Registration of Muslim Filipinos, Indigenous Cultural*
32 *Communities (ICCs) or Indigenous Peoples (IPS) and Children in Need of Special*

1 *Protection (CNSP). - Muslims Filipinos, ICCs/IPs and CNSP, by reason of their*
2 *sociocultural, religious and peculiarities shall be registered as follows:*

3 a) Muslim Filipinos civil registration shall be governed by Presidential
4 Decree No. 1083, Executive Order No. 157 and Administrative
5 Order No. 1, Series of 2005.

6 b) ICCs/IPs civil registration shall be governed by Republic Act No.
7 8371 and Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2004.

8 c) CNSP civil registration shall follow the procedures provided under
9 OCRG Memorandum Circular 2004-01 and other promulgations by
10 the OCRG in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare
11 and Development and other concerned agencies.

12 **SEC. 26.** *Barangay Civil Registration System (BCRS).* - All elected or
13 appointed barangay officials shall assist in the civil registration within their
14 area of jurisdiction through the BCRS. The OCRG shall issue guidelines
15 governing the implementation of the System.

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

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

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

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

10 **SEC. 31. Failure to Report and other Violations.** - Any person whose duty
11 is to report any fact concerning the civil status of persons and who knowingly
12 fails to perform such duty, or any person violating the provisions of this Act
13 shall be punished in accordance with law. Any civil registrar who fails to
14 properly perform his/her duties in accordance with the provisions of this Act
15 or of the regulations issued there under shall be punished in accordance with
16 law. Any violation of the preceding provisions shall be penalized by
17 imprisonment of one year or a fine ranging from Five thousand pesos
18 (PhP5,000.00) to Ten thousand pesos (PhP10,000.00), or both, at the discretion
19 of the court. The attending physician, nurse, midwife, hospital administrator
20 or any person in charge of the certificate of live birth who knowingly fails or
21 withholds the delivery of copies of the certificate to the C/MCR shall be
22 penalized by imprisonment of not more than six months or a fine of not more
23 than Five thousand pesos (PhP5,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 Approved,