

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

Office of the Secretary  
MAY 28 1990

SENATE

R7  
Y. Per

P. S. R. No. 778

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTING A MORE LIBERAL SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS OF FILIPINOS BORN ABROAD OR THEIR RECOGNITION AS FILIPINO CITIZENS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING FILIPINOS ABROAD RELIEF FROM THE PRESENT PROCESS**

*WHEREAS*, Section 1, Article IV of the Constitution defines as Filipinos, those whose fathers or mothers are citizens of the Philippines and those born before January 17, 1973, of Filipino mothers, who elect Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority, among others;

*WHEREAS*, Section 2 of Article IV of the Constitution considers as natural-born citizens those who are citizens of the Philippines from birth without having to perform any act to acquire or perfect their Philippine citizenship and those born before January 17, 1973 of Filipino mothers, who elect Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority;

*WHEREAS*, under the present system, the registration of birth of a Filipino child born abroad must be made within twelve (12) months from the date of birth with the consular office exercising jurisdiction over the birthplace;

*WHEREAS*, failure to register the birth within the prescribed period of twelve (12) months may require the filing of a petition for recognition of Filipino citizenship;

*WHEREAS*, a Petition for Recognition for Filipino citizenship may be filed with the office of the Bureau of Immigration in Manila pursuant to Bureau of Immigration Law Instruction No. RBR-99002, issued on 15 April 1999;

*WHEREAS*, reports suggest that there are a number of Filipino children born abroad whose fact of birth were not reported and registered with their respective consular offices within the period required administratively;


*WHEREAS*, to assert their Philippine citizenship, the present system suggests that the child, if over eighteen or the parent, must travel back to the Philippines to personally file the petition for recognition of Filipino citizenship, a tedious and troublesome process which entails added expenses;

*WHEREAS*, the present system seem to suggest that there may be natural born Filipinos who are required to perform acts to perfect their citizenship, contrary to the pronouncement of Section 2 Article IV of the Constitution;

*WHEREAS*, it will greatly help if a birth registration and citizenship recognition system that will not require travel to the Philippines may be adopted;

*NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED*, by the Senate of the Philippines to urge the proper Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the possibility of adopting a more liberal system of registration of births of Filipinos born abroad or their recognition as Filipino citizens, with the end in view of providing Filipinos abroad relief from the present process.

Adopted,

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID  
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