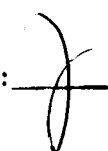


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SENATE  
S. No. 829

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT**  
**PROHIBITING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FROM REQUIRING THE**  
**SUBMISSION OF A PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY CERTIFIED BIRTH**  
**CERTIFICATE ISSUED WITHIN THE PAST SIX (6) MONTHS**

**Explanatory Note**

The birth certificate is one of the most highly requested civil registry documents. This is because the birth certificate is one of the documentary requirements for employment, educational financial assistance, social security benefits, and for securing a number of vital government-issued documents and identification such as a passport or driver's license.

Birth certificates certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) are printed in security paper (SECPA). Each copy costs P140 while the cost including delivery of the birth certificate printed on SECPA is P315 per copy.<sup>1</sup> The SECPA over the years have changed in appearance in order to keep the proliferation of fraudulent birth certificates and identities at bay. According to the PSA however, changes in the color of the SECPA does not remove the validity of the birth certificate. In spite of this, some government agencies require that applicants submit a birth certificate printed in the most recent version of SECPA issued within the past six months, thereby causing additional expenses every time an individual has to provide a birth certificate.

This bill seeks to eliminate the unnecessary expense and inconvenience on people in requesting for a birth certificate whenever they will have to apply from government for services and documents that require proof of their birth date. This bill mandates that government agencies requiring birth certificates for services be prohibited from compelling applicants to provide a birth certificate that has been requested from the PSA within the past six months.

In light of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


  
**RALPH G. RECTO**

/map

<sup>1</sup> Philippine Statistics Authority

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*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 “Lifetime Validity of Birth Certificate Act of 2016”.

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to establish an effective system that will improve the efficiency of delivery of government frontline services, particularly civil registry documents. As such, the State shall enforce a lifetime validity on birth records certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

**SEC. 3. Scope and Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all national government agencies that require the submission of a birth record certified by the PSA for the delivery of government services and issuance of documents.

**SEC. 4. Prohibition on the Requirement of Submitting a Birth Certificate Certified by the PSA within the Past Six (6) Months.** – Government agencies are prohibited from requiring applicants to government services to submit birth records printed on the most recent version of the security paper used by the PSA, or certified within the past six months. The birth certificate certified and issued by the PSA shall not expire and shall be considered valid: *Provided, That* the birth records do not require administrative corrections as provided under Republic Act Nos. 9048 and 10172.

**SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PSA shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,