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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 982

BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2007, this representation authored and Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9485 otherwise known as the “Anti-Red Tape Act” in response to the urgent need to establish an effective system that will eliminate bureaucratic red tape, avert graft and corrupt practices and improve the efficiency of delivering government frontline services.

It is significant to note that President Rodrigo R. Duterte has given utmost importance to the need to improve our efforts against red tape in his inauguration speech when he said, *“I direct all department secretaries and the heads of agencies to reduce requirements and the processing time of all applications, from the submission to the release. I order all department secretaries and heads of agencies to remove redundant requirements and compliance with one department or agency shall be accepted as sufficient for all.”*

As a response thereto, it is imperative to revisit and amend certain provisions of the Anti-Red Tape Act to further enhance the efficiency of our public servants through the reduction of the number of days by which government offices must act upon on the applications or requests submitted by the public. The law is further strengthened by also including original applications among those which shall be subject to automatic approval should the assigned officer or employee fail to act on it within the prescribed period.

It is for this purpose that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator



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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 982

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by SENATOR LACSON

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 8 AND 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9485
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-RED TAPE ACT OF 2007"**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 8 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby amended to
2 read as follows:

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4 **"SECTION 8. *Accessing Frontline Services.*** - The following
5 shall be adopted by all government offices and agencies:

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xxx xxx xxx

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(b) Action of Offices - (1) All applications and/or requests submitted shall be acted upon by the assigned officer or employee during the period stated in the Citizen's Charter which shall not be longer than [five] THREE (3) working days in the case of simple transactions and [ten (10)] SEVEN (7) working days in the case of complex transactions from the date the request or application was received. Depending on the nature of the frontline services requested or the mandate of the office or agency under unusual circumstances, the maximum time prescribed above may be extended. For the extension due to nature of frontline services or the mandate of the office or agency concerned the period for the delivery of frontline services shall be indicated in the Citizen's Charter. The office or agency concerned shall notify the requesting party in writing of the reason for the

1 extension and the final date of release for the extension and the final
2 date of release of the frontline service/s requested.”

3 **SECTION 2.** Section 9 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby amended to
4 read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 9. *Automatic APPROVAL or Extension of***
6 ***Permits [and], Licenses AND AUTHORITY.*** - IF A
7 GOVERNMENT OFFICE OR AGENCY FAILS TO
8 APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE AN ORIGINAL
9 APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMIT, LICENSE OR
10 AUTHORITY WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD, SAID
11 ORIGINAL APPLICATION SHALL BE DEEMED
12 APPROVED.

13 IN CASE [If] a government office or agency fails to
14 APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE [act on] an application and/or
15 request for renewal of a license, permit or authority subject for
16 renewal, Pwithin the prescribed period, said permit, license or
17 authority shall automatically be extended until a decision or
18 resolution is rendered on the application for renewal: *Provided,*
19 That the automatic extension shall not apply when the permit,
20 license, or authority covers activities which pose danger to
21 public health, public safety, public morals or to public policy
22 including, but not limited to, natural resource extraction
23 activities.”

24 **SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act shall be
25 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining part or provisions not otherwise
26 affected shall remain in force.

27 **SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.*** Any law, decree, ordinance,
28 administrative circulars not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby
29 amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
2 after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
3 newspapers of general circulation.

4 *Approved,*