


SENATE

'19 JUL -8 P2:22

Senate Bill No. 262

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

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

A birth certificate is among the crucial documents usually required in applying for a passport and other government-issued IDs, visa application, local employment, benefits/claims/loans, and school enrollment, among others. It is one of the most requested civil registry documents.

The birth permanent records of the identities of individual Filipinos do not have an expiration period. The facts contained in a birth certificate cannot be altered unless there is a court order or the birth document underwent administrative corrections, as provided under Republic Acts No. 9048 and 10172. However, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), occasionally changes some features (e.g., color) of the security paper (SECPA) wherein the birth certificate is being printed. According to the PSA, this is being done to prevent the proliferation of fake documents and to preserve the integrity of PSA-issued documents.¹

Notwithstanding the changes in the SECPA, previously issued birth certificates remain valid. However, government agencies require that applicants submit birth certificates printed in the most recent SECPA issued within the past six (6) months. This results in additional and unnecessary expense and inconvenience for Filipinos. Requesting for a copy of a birth certificate in a PSA or National Statistics Office (NSO) Census *Serbilis* Center costs P155.00. Aside from *Serbilis* Centers. Walk-in applications are also welcome at the Business Centers of SM Malls nationwide. This costs P140.00 per copy and an additional P20.00 service fee. The PSA *Serbilis* website provides an easier way to

¹ PSA, *Press statement on the issue that civil registry documents such as birth, death, and marriage certificates expire*, Published on 30 June 2016, Available at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/press-statement-issue-civil-registry-documents-such-birth-death-and-marriage-certificates>, Accessed on 16 June 2019.

request for birth certificates. Delivery within the Philippines costs P330.00 per copy while delivery to other countries costs USD 20.30 per copy.²

This bill seeks to unburden Filipinos of this inconvenience by mandating the lifetime validity of birth records certified by the PSA and prohibiting government agencies from requiring the submission of birth certificates issued by the PSA within the past six (6) months. A version of this measure was filed by Senator Recto in the 17th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.




FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

² PSA Serbilis, Online Application Fees, Available at <https://www.psaserbilis.com.ph/Secure/PaymentInstructions.aspx>, Accessed on 22 June 2019.

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.***- This Act shall be known as the "*Lifetime Validity of Birth*
2 *Certificate Act.*"

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

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

10 **SEC. 4. *Prohibition on the Requirement of Submitting a Birth Certificate Certified***
11 ***by the PSA within the Past Six (6) Month.*** - Government agencies are prohibited from
12 requiring applicants to government services to submit birth records printed on the most
13 recent version of the security paper used by PSA, or certified within the past six months.
14 The birth certificate certified and issued by the PSA shall not expire and shall be
15 considered valid: *Provided*, That the birth records do not require administrative
16 corrections as provided under Republic Act No. 9048 and 10172.

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

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

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

Approved,