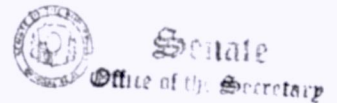


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'19 NOV 18 P3:20

SENATE  
S. No. 1179

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, written over the "RECEIVED BY" line.

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

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**AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE AUTHORITY  
TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE ISSUED TO PRIESTS,  
MINISTERS OR RABBIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
ARTICLE NINETY-FIVE OF THE CIVIL CODE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6514  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The authority of solemnizing officers to solemnize marriage is found in Article VII of the Family Code of the Philippines. Included in the enumeration of solemnizing officers are "Any priest, rabbi, imam, or minister of any church or religious sect and registered with the civil registrar general, acting within the limits of the written authority granted him by his church or religious sect and provided that at least one of the contracting parties belongs to the solemnizing officer's church or religious sect."

This authority of the solemnizing officer is one of the formal requisites of marriage and absent such will render the marriage *void ab initio*. Under Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6514<sup>1</sup>, the "authorization to solemnize marriages shall be valid for a period of three years." Considering that these priests, rabbis, imams, and ministers devote most of their time to worship and participating in activities of their church and

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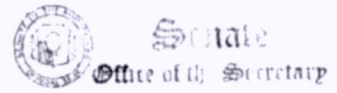
<sup>1</sup> An Act That The Authorization To Solemnize Marriage Issued To Priests, Or Ministers Or Rabbis Shall Be Valid For A Period Of Three Years The Same To Expire On The Thirty-First Day Of December Of Every Third Year, Amending For The Purpose Article Ninety-Five Of The Civil Code Of The Philippines And For Other Purposes. Approved On July 22, 1972.

religious sect, this bill seeks to lengthen the validity of their authority to the solemnize marriage to five years in order to give them more time and opportunity to render such service while reducing the cost of expenses related to the processing of the renewal of their authority.

Therefore, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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**AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE AUTHORITY  
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AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1       **SECTION 1.** Article 95 of Republic Act Numbered Three hundred  
2 and eighty-six, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as  
3 follows:

4  
5               "Art. 95. The public official in charge of  
6 registration of priests, ministers or rabbis with the  
7 approval of the proper head of department, is hereby  
8 authorized to prepare the necessary forms and to  
9 promulgate rules and regulations for the purpose of  
10 enforcing the provisions of this Title: provided, that the  
11 authorization to solemnize marriages shall be valid for a  
12 period of [three] **FIVE** years, shall expire on the thirty-  
13 first day of December of every [third] **FIFTH** year, and  
14 shall be renewable within the said month of December:  
15 provided, further, that the authorizations to solemnize  
16 marriage issued prior to and valid on the date of the

1 approval of this amendatory Act shall continue to be  
2 valid until the thirty-first day of December of the year  
3 when this amendatory Act takes effect, any regulation  
4 to the contrary notwithstanding: provided, finally, that  
5 the words "my authority to solemnize marriage expires  
6 on December 31, [19]20\_\_\_," shall be indicated in all  
7 marriage contracts just below the title of the person so  
8 authorized to solemnize marriages.  
9

10 "Priest or ministers, or rabbis belonging to one  
11 diocese religious order or congregation, or sect, may  
12 apply for authorization, through their bishop, head of  
13 religious order or congregation chief of ministers, or  
14 duly authorized representative.  
15

16 "The public official who is charge of registration  
17 may also by regulation fix and collect fees for the  
18 authorization to solemnize marriage"  
19

20 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
21 rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
22 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.  
23

24 **SEC. 3. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
25 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation  
26 or in the *Official Gazette*.

*Approved,*