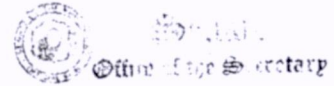


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
S. No. 1197

'19 NOV 26 P5:17

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
GRANTING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS ISSUED TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996", AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Care for the elderly members of our society has always been a virtue that is deeply intertwined with Philippine family and social life. And this has been clearly manifested with the myriad of laws and policies already in place that provides accommodations and benefits to our beloved senior citizens. From retirement pensions to free medical assistance to discounts in goods and services to express lanes – the list of benefits afforded to them goes on in on. This is a reflection of the importance and significance we ascribed to our *lolos* and *lolas* who have worked for and took care of us during their prime years. This is a way of giving back for their innumerable contributions to the family and to the community, as a whole.

This proposed measure aims to further ease and give comfort to the lives of our senior citizens – by granting lifetime validity for Philippine passports issued or renewed in their favor from the age of sixty years (60) and above. Through this lifetime validity, our senior citizens are spared from the rigorous process and long lines often associated with passport application and renewal. This is also beneficial to senior citizens who live far away from city centers where DFA Consular Offices are usually situated.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.

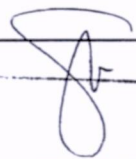


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Lifetime Passports
2 for Senior Citizens Act".

3 Sec. 2. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippine
4 Passports Act of 1996", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

5 "SEC. 10. Validity - Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for
6 a period of ten (10) years: Provided, however, That for individuals under
7 eighteen (18) years of age, only a passport with five (5)-year validity shall be
8 issued: Provided, further, That the issuing authority may limit the period of
9 validity to less than ten (10) years, whenever in the national economic
10 interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary:
11 Provided, finally, That a new passport may be issued to replace one which
12 validity has expired, the old passport being returned to the holder after
13 cancellation.

1 **PASSPORTS OF SENIOR CITIZENS ISSUED OR RENEWED AT THE**
2 **AGE OF SIXTY (60) YEARS AND ABOVE SHALL HAVE LIFETIME**
3 **VALIDITY."**

4 *Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – To carry out the provisions of
5 this Act, the Department of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the National
6 Commission on Senior Citizens shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this
7 Act, issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

8 *Sec. 4. - Separability Clause.* - Should any provision of this Act or the application
9 thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid, the other provisions or sections
10 of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

11 *Sec. 5. - Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
12 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
13 amended or modified accordingly.

14 *Sec. 6. Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following
15 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
16 circulation.

17 Approved,