

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

20 FEB -3 A10 :44

SENATE

S. No. 1305

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

**AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 9 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 651,
ENTITLED "REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND
DEATHS IN THE PHILIPPINES WHICH OCCURED FROM JANUARY 1,
1974 AND THEREAFTER"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For almost fifty years, Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 651 which mandates the immediate registration of births and deaths and provides penalties for violations thereof, has underwent zero amendment or updating. Section 9 of P.D. No. 651 provides:

"Section 9. *Penalty.* Any person required under this decree to report for registration any fact concerning the civil status of persons and who fails to do so, or who deliberately makes false statements in the birth or death form and presents the same for registration, or who violates any rule or regulation which may be issued pursuant to this decree, and any local public health officer who fails to perform his duties as provided for in this decree, or violates any rule or regulation which may be issued pursuant to this decree, shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not

less than P500.00 nor more than P1,000.00 or imprisonment of not less than three (3) months nor more than six (6) months, or both, in the discretion of the court.”

Civil registry is one of the most essential components of our bureaucracy and governance. As a country, we need to be able to properly document our citizens in order to ensure that everyone is duly accounted for, and thus have access to all the blessings of nationhood and democracy. In line with this, it thus amounts to an affront to our way of life to intentionally fail to register or falsify the entries in civil registries. Thus, P.D. No. 651 was enacted specifically to preserve the integrity of our civil registry.

The importance of maintaining the integrity of our civil registry cannot be overstated – aside from documenting our citizens, its probative value¹ requires that its sanctity be eternally preserved. Since registration endows the document with high probative value, it is incumbent upon the State to ensure that it does not become eroded by imposing more stringent penalties.

In 2017, the 17th Congress enacted Republic Act No. 10951, which adjusted for inflation various penalties and fines imposed under the Revised Penal Code (RPC) to ensure that the level of punishment will remain commensurate to the crimes.

As a separate law, there is need for separate legislation to adjust the penalties under P.D. No. 651 to the current levels imposed under the RPC, as amended.

Under this bill, the fine under P.D. No. 651 will be made at par with correctional penalties under the RPC. This bill proposes to increase the penalty for

¹ New Civil Code Article 410. “The books making up the civil register and all documents relating thereto shall be considered public documents and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein contained.”

failure to register or falsification of the civil status of persons, with a fine ranging from ₱40,000 to ₱1,200,000 – the corresponding range of fines on correctional penalties under the RPC pursuant to RA 10951.

“There is no doubt that Civil Registry Documents are important in judicial processes. They are considered as public documents and *prima facie* evidence of the facts contained therein. They are valuable aids not only in expediting the tedious proceedings of evidence presentation but also necessary and useful tools in the quest for truth and justice. The integrity of these documents must be maintained so that their great probative value can at all times be preserved.”²

Approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


DEILA M. DE LIMA


² Sison, Jose C. “*Importance of Civil Registry Documents in Judicial Processes.*” Legal Aspects of Civil Registration in the Philippines. Number 70, October 1997. (International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics, 9650 Rockville Pike Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3998, U.S.A.)

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



20 FEB -3 AIO :44

SENATE
S. No. 1305

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 9 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 651,
ENTITLED "REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND
DEATHS IN THE PHILIPPINES WHICH OCCURED FROM JANUARY 1,
1974 AND THEREAFTER"

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

1 SECTION. 1. Section 9 of Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 651, entitled
2 "Requiring the Registration of Births and Deaths in the Philippines which occurred
3 From January 1, 1974 and thereafter", is hereby amended to read, as follows:

4 "Section 9. *Penalty.* Any person required under this decree to report
5 for registration any fact concerning the civil status of persons and
6 who fails to do so, or who deliberately makes false statements in the
7 birth or death form and presents the same for registration, or who
8 violates any rule or regulation which may be issued pursuant to this
9 decree, and any local public health officer who fails to perform his
10 duties as provided for in this decree, or violates any rule or regulation
11 which may be issued pursuant to this decree shall, upon conviction,
12 be punished with a fine of not less than [~~P500.00~~] **FORTY**
13 **THOUSAND PESOS (P40,000)** nor more than [~~P1,000.00~~]

1 **ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS**

2 **(₱1,200,000)** or imprisonment of not less than three (3) months

3 nor more than six (6) months, or both, upon the discretion of the

4 court.”

5 Sec. 2. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
6 presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts
7 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
8 accordingly.

9 Sec. 3. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect upon its approval fifteen (15) days
10 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
11 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,