



SENATE*

S. No. 2450

PREPARED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES ON CIVIL SERVICE,
GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND PROFESSIONAL
REGULATION; AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS
PANGILINAN, RECTO, GATCHALIAN, VILLANUEVA,
REVILLA JR., ANGARA, POE, BINAY AND VILLAR AS
AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PERMANENT
VALIDITY OF THE CERTIFICATES OF LIVE
BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE ISSUED,
SIGNED, CERTIFIED, OR AUTHENTICATED BY
THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA)
AND ITS PREDECESSOR, THE NATIONAL
STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO) AND THE LOCAL
CIVIL REGISTRIES, AND THE REPORTS OF
BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE REGISTERED
AND ISSUED BY THE PHILIPPINE FOREIGN
SERVICE POSTS

*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
2 the “Permanent Validity of the Certificates of Live Birth,
3 Death, and Marriage Act.”

1 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the
2 State to establish an effective system for providing copies
3 of civil registry documents to all its citizens. The State
4 likewise promotes efficiency and economy by removing
5 duplicitous processes and requirements involving the
6 issuance and use of those documents. Towards this end,
7 the State shall enforce the permanent validity of the
8 certificates of live birth, death, and marriage issued,
9 signed, certified, or authenticated by the Philippine
10 Statistics Authority (PSA) and its predecessor, the
11 National Statistics Office (NSO), and the local civil
12 registries, and the reports of birth, death, and marriage
13 registered and issued by the Philippine Foreign Service
14 Posts and transmitted to the PSA.

15 SEC. 3. *Permanent Validity.* – The certificates of live
16 birth, death, and marriage issued, signed, certified or
17 authenticated by the PSA and its predecessor, the NSO,
18 and the local civil registries shall have permanent validity
19 regardless of the date of issuance and shall be recognized
20 and accepted in all government or private transactions or

1 services requiring submission thereof, as proof of identity
2 and legal status of a person: *Provided*, That the document
3 remains intact, readable, and still visibly contains the
4 authenticity and security features: *Provided, further*, That
5 this is without prejudice to an administrative or judicial
6 correction that may be conducted pursuant to Republic Act
7 No. 9858 entitled, “An Act Providing for the Legitimation
8 of Children Born to Parents Below Marrying Age,
9 Amending for the Purpose the Family Code of the
10 Philippines, as Amended”; Republic Act No. 9048 entitled,
11 “An Act Authorizing the City or Municipal Civil Registrar
12 or the Consul General to Correct a Clerical or
13 Typographical Error in an Entry and/or Change of First
14 Name or Nickname in the Civil Register Without Need of a
15 Judicial Order, Amending for this Purpose Articles 376
16 and 412 of the Civil Code of the Philippines”; Republic Act
17 No. 10172 entitled, “An Act Further Authorizing the City
18 or Municipal Civil Registrar or the Consul General to
19 Correct Clerical or Typographical Errors in the Day and
20 Month in the Date of Birth or Sex of a Person Appearing in

1 the Civil Register Without Need of a Judicial Order,
2 Amending for this Purpose Republic Act Numbered Ninety
3 Forty-Eight"; and Republic Act No. 9255 entitled, "An Act
4 Allowing Illegitimate Children to Use the Surname of their
5 Father, Amending for the Purpose Article 176 of Executive
6 Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the
7 Philippines", or in accordance with other existing laws,
8 rules and regulations, and judicial decrees: *Provided,*
9 *finally,* That the permanent validity of the Certificate of
10 Marriage is applicable only in an instance where the
11 marriage has not been judicially decreed annulled or
12 declared void *ab initio* as provided for under the Family
13 Code of the Philippines or any subsequent amendatory law
14 on marriage. In cases when the texts on the certificate
15 appear illegible, or an administrative correction or a
16 judicial decree has been approved, the concerned person
17 shall thus submit the new, amended, or updated
18 certificate.

1 This provision likewise applies to report of birth,
2 death, or marriage registered and issued by the Philippine
3 Foreign Service Posts, and transmitted to the PSA.

4 SEC. 4. *Issuance of Civil Registry Documents; Reports*
5 *of Philippine Foreign Service Posts.* – The permanent
6 validity herein declared notwithstanding, no person whose
7 information on the occurrence and characteristics of vital
8 events is registered in the civil registry, or the person's
9 authorized representative, shall be prevented from
10 securing a copy of civil registry documents in such number
11 of prints or as often as necessary, subject to applicable
12 payment of relevant fees prescribed by the PSA, the local
13 civil registries and the Philippine Foreign Service Posts.
14 The initial issuance of a certificate, request for
15 replacement due to loss or damage, and reissuance upon
16 presentation of a Certificate of Indigency from the
17 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),
18 shall be free of charge: *Provided*, That the Certificate of
19 Indigency shall be based on the DSWD Listahanan in the
20 subsequent reissuances.

1 This provision likewise applies to requests for the
2 issuance of reports of birth, death, and marriage by the
3 Philippine Foreign Service Posts.

4 SEC. 5. *Prohibition Against Requiring a New Copy of*
5 *a Certificate.* – National government agencies and
6 instrumentalities, government-owned and controlled
7 corporations, local government units, private companies,
8 private and public educational institutions, and other
9 non-government entities are prohibited from requiring the
10 submission of another or newer copies of certificates of live
11 birth, death, or marriage, and reports of birth, death or
12 marriage when a valid certificate can already be presented.

13 SEC. 6 *Submission of Other Documents.* – The
14 submission of a PSA-authenticated birth certificate shall
15 be without prejudice to the submission of other supporting
16 documents that the end-user agency, company or entity
17 may use in determining the identity of applicants,
18 particularly those classified as special cases such as dual
19 citizens, persons with dissolved marriages, and those with
20 late registered certificates of live birth.

1 SEC. 7. *Civil Registry Database.* – Within six (6)
2 months from the effectivity of this Act, the PSA shall, in
3 coordination with the Department of Information and
4 Communications Technology (DICT), develop a civil
5 registry database and establish a virtual viewing facility in
6 local civil registries and in the Philippine Foreign Service
7 Posts, to verify the authenticity of the certificates of live
8 birth, death, or marriage, and the reports of birth, death,
9 or marriage, respectively. The facility shall incorporate
10 such controls and safeguards as are appropriate and
11 necessary, to ensure that only authorized personnel have
12 access to the facility, and the confidentiality of the
13 information is protected at all times, in accordance with
14 the relevant provisions of Presidential Decree No. 603, or
15 “The Child and Youth Welfare Code” as amended, and
16 Republic Act No. 10173, or the “Data Privacy Act of 2012”.
17 The PSA may charge reasonable fees for the use of the
18 virtual viewing facility.

19 To maximize the ease and convenience offered by
20 technological advancements, the PSA shall continually

1 upgrade its virtual viewing facility and prioritize the
2 migration of its civil registry database into a fully digitized
3 system. It shall likewise adopt appropriate policies relative
4 to the submission of the certificates of live birth, death, or
5 marriage, and the reports of birth, death, or marriage,
6 towards facilitating the process of data registration.

7 SEC. 8. *Penalty.* – Any person who violates Section 5
8 of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished with
9 imprisonment of one (1) month and one (1) day to six (6)
10 months or a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos
11 (P5,000.00) but not more than Ten thousand pesos
12 (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

13 If the violation is committed by a public official or
14 employee, an accessory penalty of temporary
15 disqualification to hold public office shall likewise be
16 imposed.

17 If the violation is committed by a corporation,
18 partnership, or association, the board of director, partner,
19 trustee, official, or employee who directly or indirectly

1 participated in the commission of the unlawful act
2 provided under Section 5 hereof, shall be liable.

3 A criminal liability as provided under Republic Act
4 9485, or the "Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007", as amended by
5 Republic Act No. 11032, shall be imposed on "fixers"
6 defined under the law, as any individual, whether or not
7 officially involved in the operation of a government office or
8 agency, who has access to people working therein, and
9 whether or not in collusion with them, facilitates the
10 speedy completion of transactions for pecuniary gain or
11 any other advantage or consideration.

12 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for
13 the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged
14 against the current year's appropriations of the PSA.
15 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
16 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
17 General Appropriations Act.

18 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* –
19 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
20 National Statistician shall, in coordination with the

1 Secretaries of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the
2 DICT, and the President of the Philippine Association of
3 Civil Registrars, promulgate the necessary rules and
4 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

5 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision,
6 section, or part of this Act shall be declared
7 unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect,
8 invalidate, or impair other provisions, sections or parts
9 hereof.

10 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, rules and
11 regulations, orders, circulars, and other issuances or parts
12 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
13 Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

14 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
15 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a
16 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,