NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session Section of the Fig. 1800.

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SENATE

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s. No. 2571

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR A FIVE-YEAR VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS OF ALL PROFESSIONALS UNDER THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 14 of the Constitution states that: "[t] he sustained development of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields shall be promoted by the State. The State shall encourage appropriate technology and regulate its transfer for the national benefit. The practice of all professions in the Philippines shall be limited to Filipino citizens, save in cases prescribed by law."

In order to vitalize and motivate our pool of Filipino professionals, processes which concern their registration in the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) must be streamlined and rationalized in order to avoid these processes from being too burdensome.

Extending the validity of their PRC Identification Cards (IDs) is one such measure which eases the onerous processes relating to the PRC ID renewal. In extending the period of validity of PRC IDs from three (3) years to five (5) years, professionals will be given an additional two (2) years to comply with the requirements for renewal.

The new period for renewal is actually not foreign as regards to validity of professional licenses. In fact, maritime professionals who are covered by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), enjoy a five-year validity of their Professional License ID under MARINA rules upon their compliance with the Standards of Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW).

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is most earnestly sought.

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.,

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

- Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Extension of Validity of Professional Regulation Commission Identification Cards"
 - Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. It shall be the policy of the state to promote the sustained development of a reservoir of national talents which include Filipino professionals. The State shall thus endeavor to encourage the full participation and advancement of professionals through various programs which rationalizes the policy regarding the issuance of Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Identification Cards (IDs).
 - Sec. 3. *Extension of Validity of PRC ID.* All PRC IDs shall be valid for five (5) years, subject to the compliance with all the legal and procedural requirements for its issuance, and provided that the PRC finds that the professional possesses the necessary qualifications, unless sooner revoked or suspended.
 - Sec. 4. *Conditional Requirement.* The five-year validity of PRC Ids under this Act shall be available only to professionals who have no pending administrative case.

- Sec. 5. *Prevention of alteration or falsification.* The PRC shall use such processes and adopt such measures as will prevent any alteration or falsification of a PRC ID or will enable the PRC to detect any unauthorized PRC ID.
- Sec. 6. Operationalization. In order to operationalize the provisions of this Act, the Information and Communications Technology (ICTS) and other concerned offices/divisions of the PRC shall complete the necessary systems enhancement and other administrative processes, including the finalization of the revised assessment of annual registration fees within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.
- Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.
- Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.
- Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,