



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 905

Submitted by the Committees on Population and Family Relations, and Appropriations on **April 7, 2021**

Re : House Bill No. 9175

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3254, 4530, 5376, 5847, 7139 and 7779

Sponsors : Representatives Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Eric Go Yap, Lorna C. Silverio, Vilma Santos-Recto, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, and Alfred D. Vargas

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Population and Family Relations, and Appropriations, to which were referred:

House Bill No. 3254, introduced by Rep. Lorna C. Silverio, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROHIBITING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FROM REQUIRING
THE SUBMISSION OF A PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED WITHIN THE PAST SIX (6)
MONTHS";**

House Bill No. 4530, introduced by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROHIBITING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FROM REQUIRING
THE SUBMISSION OF A PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED WITHIN THE PAST SIX (6) MONTHS”;

House Bill No. 5376, introduced by Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III, entitled:

**“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH
CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY”;**

House Bill No. 5847, introduced by Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, entitled:

**“AN ACT
PROHIBITING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FROM REQUIRING
THE SUBMISSION OF A PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY CERTIFIED
BIRTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED WITHIN THE PAST SIX (6) MONTHS”;**

House Bill No. 7139, introduced by Rep. Alfred D. Vargas, entitled:

**“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES
ISSUED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”;** and

House Bill No. 7779, introduced by Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., entitled:

**“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE PERMANENT VALIDITY OF THE CERTIFICATES OF
LIVE BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE ISSUED, SIGNED, CERTIFIED, AND
AUTHENTICATED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA),
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICES, AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS
OFFICE (NSO)”**

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 9175,
entitled:

**“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 approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3254, 4530, 5376, 5847, 7139, and 7779, with Reps. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, Eric Go Yap, Lorna C. Silverio, Vilma Santos-Recto, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Alfred D. Vargas, Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer, Alan 1 B. Ecleo, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Ma. Victoria V. Umali, Strike B. Revilla, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Tyrone D. Agabas, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ruffy B. Biazon, Peter John D. Calderon, Junie E. Cua, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Paul Ruiz Daza, Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I, Greg G. Gasataya, Ed Christopher S. Go, Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, Sandro L. Gonzalez, Teodorico Haresco, Jr., Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Joey Sarte Salceda, David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Micaela S. Violago, Manuel F. Zubiri, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Julienne "Jam" Baronda, Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Ph.D., Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Sergio C. Dagooc, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Eduardo "Eddie" R. Gullas, Ann K. Hofer, Glona G. Labadlabad, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Dale "Along" R. Malapitan, Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., John Reynald M. Tiangco, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Rodolfo M. Ordanes, Romulo "Kid" V. Peña, Jr., Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Roman T. Romulo, Allan U. Ty , and Henry R. Villarica as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



ERIC GO YAP

Chairman
Committee on Appropriations



MA. LUCILLE L. NAVA, M.D.

Chairperson
Committee on Population and Family Relations

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9175
(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 3254, 4530,
5376, 5847, 7139 and 7779)

Introduced by Representatives Ma. Lucille L. Nava, Eric Go Yap, Lorna C. Silverio, Vilma Santos-Recto, Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Alfred Vargas, Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer, Alan 1 B. Ecleo, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Ma. Victoria V. Umali, Strike B. Revilla, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Tyrone D. Agabas, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Elenita Milagros “Eileen” Ermita-Buhain, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ruffy B. Biazon, Peter John D. Calderon, Junie E. Cua, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Paul Ruiz Daza, Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I, Greg G. Gasataya, Ed Christopher S. Go, Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, Sandro L. Gonzalez, Teodorico Haresco, Jr., Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Joey Sarte Salceda, David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez, Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada, Micaela S. Violago, Manuel F. Zubiri, Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe, Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Julianne “Jam” Baronda, Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, Ph.D., Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Sergio C. Dagooc, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Eduardo “Eddie” R. Gullas, Ann K. Hofer, Glona G. Labadlabad, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Dale “Along” R. Malapitan, Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, Emmarie “Lolypop” Ouano-Dizon, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D., John Reynald M. Tiangco, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Rodolfo M. Ordanes, Romulo “Kid” V. Peña, Jr., Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Roman T. Romulo, Allan U. Ty , and Henry R. Villarica

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:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Permanent Validity of the Certificates of Live Birth, Death, and Marriage Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to establish an effective system for providing copies of civil registry documents to all its citizens. The State likewise promotes efficiency and economy by removing duplicitous processes and requirements involving the issuance and use of those documents. Towards this end, the State shall enforce 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 Philippine Foreign Service Posts and transmitted to the PSA.

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

government or private transactions or services requiring submission thereof, as proof of identity and legal status of a person: *Provided*, That the document remains intact, readable, and still visibly contains the authenticity and security features: *Provided, further*, That this is without prejudice to an administrative or judicial correction that may be conducted pursuant to Republic Act No. 9858 entitled, *“An Act Providing for the Legitimation of Children Born to Parents Below Marrying Age, Amending for the Purpose the Family Code of the Philippines, As Amended”*; Republic Act No. 9048 entitled, *“An Act Authorizing the City or Municipal Civil Registrar or the Consul General to Correct a Clerical or Typographical Error in an Entry and/or Change of First Name or Nickname in the Civil Register Without Need of a Judicial Order, Amending for this Purpose Articles 376 and 412 of the Civil Code of the Philippines”*; Republic Act No. 10172 entitled, *“An Act Further Authorizing the City or Municipal Civil Registrar or the Consul General to Correct Clerical or Typographical Errors in the Day and Month in the Date of Birth or Sex of a Person Appearing in the Civil Register Without Need of a Judicial Order, Amending for this Purpose Republic Act Numbered Ninety Forty-Eight”*; and Republic Act No. 9255 entitled, *“An Act Allowing Illegitimate Children to Use the Surname of their Father, Amending for the Purpose Article 176 of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the ‘Family Code of the Philippines,’”* or in accordance with other existing laws, rules and regulations, and judicial decrees: *Provided, finally*, That the permanent validity of the Certificate of Marriage is applicable only in an instance where the marriage has

not been judicially decreed annulled or declared *void ab initio* as provided for under the “Family Code of the Philippines” or any subsequent amendatory law on marriage. In cases when the texts on the certificate appear illegible, or an administrative correction or a judicial decree has been approved, the concerned person shall thus submit the new, amended, or updated certificate.

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

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

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

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

SEC. 6. *Non-Availability of PSA-Issued Certificate.* – In all transactions or services where a copy of the certificates of live birth, death, or marriage, or reports of birth, death, or marriage is required and a PSA-issued certificate is not available, it shall be sufficient for the person concerned or the authorized representative to submit to the end-user agency, company or entity the original or a certified true copy of the original certificates of live birth, death, or marriage issued and signed by the local civil registrar, or NSO certificates printed in security paper and has the Birth Reference Number or BReN code and barcode.

This provision likewise applies to reports of birth, death, and marriage issued by the Philippine Foreign Service Posts.

SEC. 7. *Submission of Other Documents.* – The submission of a PSA-authenticated birth certificate shall be without prejudice to the submission of

other supporting documents that the end-user agency, company or entity may use in determining the identity of applicants, particularly those classified as special cases such as dual citizens, persons with dissolved marriages, and those with late registered certificates of live birth.

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

To maximize the ease and convenience offered by technological advancements, the PSA shall continually upgrade its virtual viewing facility and prioritize the migration of its civil registry database into a fully digitized system. It shall likewise adopt appropriate policies relative to the submission

of the certificates of live birth, death, or marriage, and the reports of birth, death, or marriage, towards facilitating the process of data registration.

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

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

If the violation is committed by a corporation, partnership, or association, the board of director, partner, trustee, official, or employee who directly or indirectly participated in the commission of the unlawful act provided under Sec. 5 hereof, shall be liable.

A criminal liability as provided under Republic Act 9485, or the “Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007” shall be imposed on “fixers” defined under the law, as any individual, whether or not officially involved in the operation of a government office or agency, who has access to people working therein, and whether or not in collusion with them, facilitates the speedy completion of transactions for pecuniary gain or any other advantage or consideration.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s

appropriations of the PSA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Statistician shall, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the DICT, and the President of the Philippine Association of Civil Registrars, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, section, or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate, or impair other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

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

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

Approved,

FACT SHEET

HOUSE BILL NO. 9175 (In substitution of House Bills Numbered 3254, 4530, 5376, 5847, 7139 and 7779)

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

Introduced by: Reps. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, Eric Go Yap, Lorna C. Silverio, Vilma Santos-Recto, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Alfred Vargas, Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer, Alan 1 B. Ecleo, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Ma. Victoria V. Umali, Strike B. Revilla, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Tyrone D. Agabas, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ruffy B. Biazon, Peter John D. Calderon, Junie E. Cua, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Paul Ruiz Daza, Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I, Greg G. Gasataya, Ed Christoper S. Go, Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, Sandro L. Gonzalez, Teodorico Haresco, Jr., Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Joey Sarte Salceda, David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Micaela S. Violago, Manuel F. Zubiri, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Julienne "Jam" Baronda, Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Ph.D., Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Sergio C. Dagooc, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Eduardo "Eddie" R. Gullas, Ann K. Hofer, Glona G. Labadlabad, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Dale "Along" R. Malapitan, Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., John Reynald M. Tiangco, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Rodolfo M. Ordanes, Romulo "Kid" V. Peña, Jr., Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Roman T. Romulo, Allan U. Ty, and Henry R. Villarica

*Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS
Committee Chairperson: REP. MA. LUCILLE L. NAVA*

OBJECTIVES:

- To eliminate the unnecessary costs, inconvenience and duplicitous burden of securing the most recent copy of the civil registry document

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates 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 and transmitted to the PSA regardless of the date of issuance
- Provides for the creation of a civil registry database and establishes a virtual viewing facility in local civil registries and in the Philippine Foreign Service Posts, to verify the authenticity of the certificates of live birth, death, and marriage, and the reports of birth, death, or marriage submitted
- Provides exception for the certificates of live birth, and death, and the reports of birth and death, with administrative or judicial correction pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 9858; RA 9048; RA 10172; RA 9255; and for the certificate of marriage and report of marriage for those judicially decreed annulled or declared *void ab initio*
- Prohibits national government agencies and instrumentalities, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, private companies, private and public educational institutions, and other non-government entities from requiring the submission of another or newer copies of certificates of live birth, death, and marriage, and reports of birth, death, or marriage when a valid certificate can already be presented
- Mandates acceptability of the original or a certified true copy of the original certificates of live birth, death, or marriage issued and signed by the local civil registrar or NSO certificates printed in security paper and has the Birth Reference Number or BReN code and barcode
- Provides penalties in violation of the provisions of this Act
- Appropriates funds from the National Economic and Development Authority for the initial year of implementation and thereafter, from the General Appropriations Act
- Mandates the PSA, in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, and the Philippine Association of Civil Registrars to promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 9048 - “Administrative Correction of Errors”
- Republic Act No. 9255 - “Allowing Illegitimate Children to Use the Surname of Their Father”
- Republic Act No. 9485 – “Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007”
- Republic Act No. 9858 - “Legitimation of Children Below Marrying Age”
- Republic Act No. 10172 - “Amendment to RA 9048 on the Administrative Correction of Errors”
- Republic Act No. 10173 – “Data Privacy Act of 2012”
- Presidential Decree No. 603 – “Child and Youth Welfare Code”