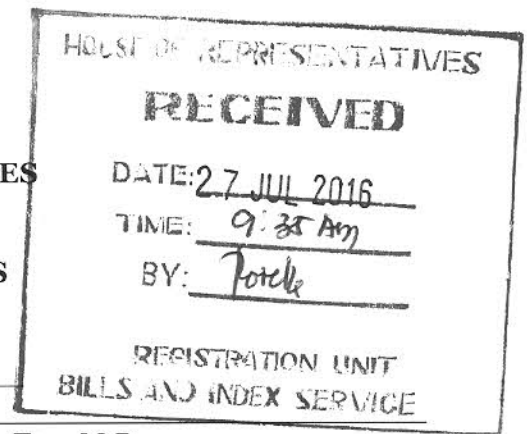


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1996



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE TO FIVE YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 398, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

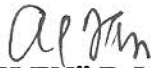
With the end view of eliminating red tape and averting graft and corruption from the processing of driver's licenses that have far-reaching benefits for our economy, this bill seeks to extend the validity of a driver's license from three (3) to five (5) years thereby institutionalizing the existing regulation of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), which already extended the validity of a driver's license to five years.

Presently, the LTO, an agency of government that is primarily tasked with the promotion of safety and comfort in land travel, is saddled with a myriad of problems and minimizing the frequency of the public transactions with the LTO will dramatically reduce red tape and promote ease and convenience on the part of the public and LTO personnel.

The LTO was composed of only thirteen (13) regions when Executive Orders 125, 125-A and 226 were promulgated and additional regions were created as time went on such as CAR, CARAGA and MIMAROPA, which report to LTO Central Office on matters of registration of motor vehicles, issuance of driver's licenses and enforcement of land transportation laws, rules and regulations.

Undeniably, the volume of transactions at LTO has grown so fast without increasing its manpower to meet the growing public demand for its services. Hence, extending the validity of a driver's license will dramatically help reduce the volume of numerous public transactions and help in eliminating red tape.

In view of the foregoing immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. Section 22 of Republic Act No. 4136, as amended, shall be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 22. Application for driver's license, fees, examination. — Every person who desires to personally operate any motor vehicle shall file an application to the Director or his deputies for a license to drive motor vehicles: Provided, however, That no person shall be issued a professional driver's license who is suffering from contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases and epilepsy or who is an alcohol or drug addict or dependent.

"Each such application, except in the case of enlisted men operating government-owned vehicles, shall be accomplished by a fee of five pesos, and shall contain such information respecting the applicant and his ability to operate motor vehicles, as may be required by the Bureau.

"The Director or his deputies shall also ascertain that the applicant's health, sight and hearing are sound and normal, and is physically and mentally fit to operate motor vehicles. To this end, the Director or his deputies shall require a certificate to that effect, signed by a reputable accredited physician.

"An examination, theoretical and practical, to determine every applicant's ability and fitness to operate motor vehicles to be conducted by the Director in such form and manner as he shall prescribe shall also be required. A manual containing the general scope of the examinations and such information as may be necessary for the guidance of the applicants and for the purpose of effectivity and implementation of this Act may be published in an official language and distributed at no cost to the applicants.

"No application for a driver's license shall be received, unless the applicant:

"(1) For a professional driver's license, is at least eighteen years of age, possesses a valid student-driver's permit and has undergone instruction in the operation of motor vehicles for at least five months under a qualified instructor: Provided, however, That the period of time the applicant has operated a motor vehicle with a non-professional driver's license shall be credited against the period of instruction required herein; and

(2) For a non-professional driver's license, is at least [seventeen] EIGHTEEN years of age, possesses a valid student-driver's permit and has undergone instruction in the operation of motor vehicles for at least a month."

SEC. 2. Section 23 of Republic Act No. 4136, as amended, shall be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 23. Issuance of driver's license, fees and validity. — If, after such examination, the Director or his deputies find that the applicant possesses the necessary qualification and proficiency in the operation of motor vehicles, is able to read and write any of the official languages or a major dialect and knows how to read and interpret various traffic signs, signals and road markings, a professional or nonprofessional license may be issued to such applicant upon payment of the fee prescribed in accordance with law, but prior to the issuance of said license, the applicant shall present himself in person and have his photograph taken by the bureau. All driver's licenses issued shall be signed in the presence of the Director or his deputies and shall bear, among others, the full name, date of birth, height, weight, sex, color of eyes, blood type, complete current address, right hand thumbprint of the licensee, license number, and its date of issue and expiration.

"In the issuance of licenses, the Bureau shall use such process or adopt such measure as will prevent any alteration or falsification of a license or will enable the Bureau to detect any unauthorized license.

"Except for student permits and new licenses, all driver's licenses shall be valid for [three] FIVE consecutive years reckoned from the birthdate of the licensee, unless sooner revoked or suspended[: Provided, however, That, subject to Section twenty-six hereof, any holder of a professional or nonprofessional driver's license who has not committed any violation during the three-year period shall be entitled to a renewal of such license for five-year period]."

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *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. 5. *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,