

Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2791

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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DATE	10 AUG 2016
TIME	2:00 PM
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REGISTRATION UNIT	
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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL-PASCUAL**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

In President Rodrigo R. Duterte's inaugural State of the Nation Address, he underscored the need for extending the validity of the passports issued by the Philippine government. He used the terrible situation in the satellite office of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Davao City as an illustration to highlight the problem faced by Filipinos in applying for a passport. Sadly, this is a situation not limited to Davao City but experienced in majority of the DFA's main and satellite offices.

This proposed measure will provide a benefit that will be welcomed by Filipinos especially millions of our Overseas Filipino Workers. This will be one change that will help ease the burden in traveling and gaining employment abroad. The longer validity will mean one less requirement to worry about that will cost time off from work or vacation for the applicants. This will also contribute in the reduction of long queues in the offices involved in the processing of passports.

In general, this will bolster the right to travel enshrined in the Constitution, help eliminate red tape and facilitate efficiency in government transactions.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the bill is earnestly sought.

  
**ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL-PASCUAL**  
Representative  
Kalinga Party-list

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. **2791**

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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL-PASCUAL**

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**AN ACT AMENDING R.A. 8239, ENTITLED PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996**

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

**SECTION 1. *Section 10 of R.A. 8239 is hereby amended to read as follows:***

SEC. 10. Validity. – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a period of TEN (10) years: Provided, however, That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than TEN (10) years; whenever in the national economic interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary: Provided, finally, That a new passport may be issued to replace one which validity has expired, the old passport being returned to the holder after cancellation.

**SEC. 2. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,