

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2817**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representatives  
**Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) is the lead government agency mandated to implement and enforce all land transportation laws, rules and regulations including, among others, the registration of motor vehicles and the issuance of permits and licenses to motor vehicle drivers. Under current laws and agency rules and regulation, all drivers' licenses (non-professional and professional) are valid for three (3) consecutive years reckoned from the birthdate of the licensee, unless sooner revoked or suspended. However, if any holder of a professional or non-professional driver's license has not committed any violation during the three (3) year period, the said holder shall be entitled to a renewal of such license for a five (5) year period.<sup>1</sup>

It is quite unfortunate that for more than a year now, the LTO has been plagued with a myriad of complaints from motor vehicle owners and drivers regarding its apparent inability to issue both vehicle license plates and driver's license cards within a reasonable period of time. To address the shortage of driver's license cards, the LTO is currently issuing validated stamped receipts that serve as a professional driver's license.

The shortage of LTO license cards started in 2013 after the Commission on Audit disallowed payments to a previous supplier, Amalgamated Motors Philippines, Inc. for lack of a valid contract. Thereafter, a new supplier, Allcard Plastics Philippines, Inc., won the bidding for the right to supply LTO license cards for ₱336.8 million. However, just a few months after preliminary injunction against LTO ordering the latter to refrain from paying Allcard under the terms of the driver's license supply contract. The Manila RTC was of the view that there was no approved budget for the project denominated by the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) as procurement of driver's license cards. For fear that the company might not get paid under the supply contract, Allcard stopped supplying LTO with license cards resulting in a backlog in the issuance of license cards to millions of motorists.<sup>2</sup>

In order to allow the LTO to properly address its legal woes, improve its services and promote efficiency, this bill seeks to amend Section 23 of Republic Act No. 4136, as amended, by increasing the validity period of driver's licenses from three (3) years to five (5)

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<sup>1</sup> Republic Act No. 4136, as amended by B.P. Blg. 398. Land Transportation Office Administrative Order No. AVT-2015-031.

<sup>2</sup> "LTO exec fears delayed issuance of driver's license cards." 20 October 2015


<http://www.philstar.com:8080/headlines/2015/10/30/1516361/ltoexec-fears-delayed-issuance-drivers-license-cards>

years reckoned from the birthdate of the licensee, without any condition. Extending the validity of driver's license cards will ultimately lessen the cost both on the part of the government and the motorists in general.

Furthermore, the public expects efficient delivery of services from the government. It is for this reason that Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9485, otherwise known as the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007 (ARTA). ARTA was passed to promote transparency through the adoption of simplified procedures that will reduce red tape and expedite transactions in government. Minimizing the frequency of the public's transactions with the LTO will definitely translate to a dramatic reduction of red tape within the agency.

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

  
**ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**  
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**AN ACT**

**EXTENDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE"**

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 23 of Republic Act No, 4136, otherwise known as the "Land  
2   Transportation and Traffic Code", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as  
3   follows:

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

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

21                   "Except for student permits and new licenses, all driver's  
22   licenses shall be valid for [three (3)] **FIVE (5)** consecutive years reckoned  
23   from the birthdate of the licensee, unless sooner revoked or suspended.  
24   [*Provided, however,* That subject to Section twenty-six hereof, any holder  
25   of a professional or nonprofessional driver's license who has not

1 committed any violation during the three (3) year period shall be entitle to  
2 a renewal of such license for five-year period.

3 "X X X."

4 SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the  
5 Department of Transportation, shall, upon the recommendation of the Land Transportation  
6 Office Assistant Secretary, promulgate not later than thirty (30) days from the effectivity of  
7 this Act the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

8 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions,  
9 issuances, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
10 hereby likewise repealed or modified accordingly.

11 SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
12 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

13 Approved,