

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5968**

Introduced by HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.,
Representative, Senior Citizens Party-List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty **through policies that provide adequate social services**, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. **In all matters relating to the care, health, and benefits of the elderly**, the State shall **adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach** to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and **other social services available to all people at affordable costs giving priority** for the needs of the underprivileged sick, **elderly**, disabled, women and children.¹

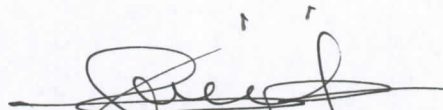
With the foregoing constitutional policy, the government has been committed in providing services for the elderly members (Senior Citizens) of our society from laws and policies being implemented such as discounts in hotels, transportation, drugstores and even in medical and dental services, among others. Elderly members of our society are recognized for their contribution in shaping the nation in general and nurturing Filipino families in particular during their early years. The government provides social services to the elderly to give them comfort and convenience as way of expressing heartfelt gratitude and selfless support to their well-being.²

Most of the elderly members of our society enjoy their retirement through travelling and visiting places outside the country, thus, in order to help them avoid the rigorous and long process associated in applying and/or renewing passports, a grant of a lifetime validity of the same should be implemented.

¹ 1987 Philippine Constitution

² Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010

Application and renewal of passports of Senior Citizens or from the age of sixty (60) years old and above should be given the privilege of having passport with lifetime validity to help them fully enjoy their retirement through a hassle-free and convenient way of securing passports.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francisco G. Datol, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.
Representative
Senior Citizens Party List

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AN ACT

GRANTING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS ISSUED TO SENIOR CITIZENS/ELDERLY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 10928 (R.A. 10928), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996", AS AMENDED

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 "Senior Citizens' Lifetime Passport Act of 2019"

SECTION 2. Validity. – Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippine Passport Act of 1996", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10 Validity – Regular passports issued to individuals from eighteen (18) years of age and above under this Act shall be valid for a period of ten (10) years, for individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, only a passport with five (5)-year validity shall be issued, and for senior citizens issued or renewed at the age of sixty (60) years of age shall have a lifetime validity: Provided, further, 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."

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – To carry out the provisions of this Act, the Department of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the National Commission on Senior Citizens shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid, the other provisions or sections of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.