

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. **2191**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **Hon. Sol Aragones**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8239 or the Philippine Passport Act was passed in 1996. In its statement of policy, it recognized that the people's constitutional right to travel is inviolable. In line with this, it is the duty of the government to issue passports or travel documents to its citizens. It defines a passport as a document issued by the Philippine government to its citizens and requesting other governments to allow our citizens to pass safely and freely, and in case of need to give our citizen all lawful aid and protection.

While the said law has served our travelling countrymen well, one criticism is the short validity period of five years which amounts to greater costs and additional time spent to process these travel documents. This is particularly burdensome for our overseas Filipino workers. With this concern in mind, this bill seeks to lengthen the validity of passports to ten years for applicants who are sixteen years of age or older. For applicants who are fifteen years old or younger, the validity still remains at five years. This is to account for the changes in the facial features of children and ten years will significantly change their faces as they appear on the passport photo.

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

[Signature]
HON. SOL ARAGONES
Representative, Third District of Laguna

Introduced by **Hon. Sol Aragon**