

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3940



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the right to travel shall not be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law."

At present, Philippine passports have a five-year validity and the process that goes into its obtainment has evolved into an intricate, counterproductive procedure. The protracted processing days, the stressful fashion to get to DFA on account of Metro traffic and the high costs of the passport application process, let alone, the risks that leaving one's place entails – all complicate the process.

In other countries such as the US, Canada and China, the validity of their passports is ten years. Filipino citizens should enjoy the same privilege.

Hence, RA 8239 should be so amended as to extend the validity of the Philippine passport to ten years.

The immediate passage of this proposed measure is thus most earnestly sought.

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Winnie Castelo, written in dark ink. The signature is written over the printed name "WINNIE CASTELO".

WINNIE CASTELO

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

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AN ACT

EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORT TO TEN (10) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996"

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 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. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,