

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5729



Introduced by Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is ingrained in the Filipino culture to honor and respect the elderly members of society. Various traditions around the country showcase their significance as a beloved part of the community, and at the same, extend the warmest of gratitude for all their contributions during their prime years.

This representation believes that it is only fitting that our senior citizens receive their well-deserved attention and care as reward to their decades of personal contribution to the Filipino nation. This can be done enacting more laws that give them special privileges in public services.

This measure seeks to amend Republic Act No. 8239, or the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, by providing for the lifetime validity of Philippine passports of senior citizens. It is the hope of this representation to spare our dear senior citizens from the meticulous process and long queue of the renewal of passports. This will also encourage them to travel and enjoy their retirement, and hopefully boost their morale as citizens of our country.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO

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AN ACT GRANTING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996," AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippines Passport Act of 1996", 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 for individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, only a passport with five (5)-year validity shall be issued: 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.

PASSPORTS OF SENIOR CITIZENS ISSUED OR RENEWED AT AGE SIXTY-FIVE (65) AND ABOVE SHALL HAVE LIFETIME VALIDITY.

SEC. 2. Implementing Authority. – The Department of Foreign Affairs shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations and adopt the best practices to ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented in convergence with necessary reforms to make the passport processing system seamless, convenient and pro-people, and the production and security of passports at par with technological advances and world standards.

SEC. 3. Separability Clause. -If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,