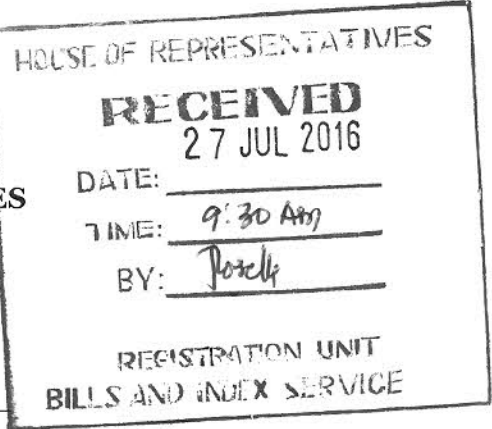


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1995



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE


The 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" (Article III, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines).

Consistent with this provision, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 8239 or the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, which provides for the duty of government to issue passports or any travel document to any citizen or individual who complies with the requirements of the law.

Presently, Philippine passports have a five-year validity and applicants are required to pay the Php950 processing fee for the regular process or Php1,200 for those who want to rush the processing. Usually, the process takes about 25 working days.

A five-year passport validity is rather too short considering the tedious process one has to go through to get a passport and the steep cost of obtaining or renewing it. Hence, this bill seeks to enhance the Filipinos' unimpaired exercise of their constitutional right to travel by increasing the validity of regular passports issued from five (5) to ten (10) years. In so doing, Filipinos, especially the Overseas Filipino Workers, will be spared from the constant hassle of applying for renewal.

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


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239 shall be amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. Validity. – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a period of [five (5)] TEN (10) years: Provided, however, That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than [five (5)] 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. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general Circulation.

Approved,