EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1023

19 SEP -9 P3:56

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 19 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591 OR THE COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10591 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act and extend the validity of a Philippine Firearms and Ammunition License from two (2) to five (5) years and the firearm registration from four (4) to five (5) years.

A firearms and ammunition license is an official document authorizing a Filipino citizen to own and possess or carry firearms outside of the residence. Firearm registrations are documents issued by the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) as proof that the firearm is duly registered and recorded at the Firearms Information Management System (FIMS) of the FEO.

According to Chief Supt. Valeriano de Leon, director of the PNP-FEO, there are around 200,000 individuals with a firearm and ammunition license in 2018. In addition, there are about 600,000 firearms that are registered in the FEO, while there are approximately one million loose firearms nationwide. In streamlining the renewal of both the license and registration of firearms in the Philippines, this may curtail the number of unregistered firearms, considering the length of validity would be extended. In addition, this would be beneficial to those who already have a license and registration as they would not have to reregister and renew their registration and license, respectively, as frequently.

In order to streamline the process of renewing both the license and registration, and make it more convenient for the public, this bill seeks to amend Section 19 of RA No. 10591 to extend the validity of both the license and registration to five (5) years so they can be renewed at the same time. Similar to the Philippine driver's license which also has a five (5) year validity, this will parallelize the validity of government-issued documents.

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

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 19 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591 OR THE COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT

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

- SECTION 1. Section 19 of Republic Act No. 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act is hereby amended to read as follows:
- Section 19. Renewal of Licenses and Registration. All types of licenses to possess a firearm shall be renewed every [two (2)] FIVE (5) years. Failure to renew the license on or before the date of its expiration shall cause the revocation of the license and of the registration of the firearm/s under said licensee.
- The registration of the firearm shall be renewed every [four (4)] **FIVE (5)**years. Failure to renew the registration of the firearm on or before the
 date of expiration shall cause the revocation of the license of the firearm.
 The said firearm shall be confiscated or forfeited in favor of the
 government after due process.
 - The failure to renew a license or registration within the periods stated above on two (2) occasions shall cause the holder of the firearm to be perpetually disqualified from applying for any firearm license. The application for the renewal of the license or registration may be submitted to the FEO of the PNP, within six (6) months before the date of the expiration of such license or registration.
 - **SEC. 2.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chief of the Philippine National Police, after public hearings and consultation with concerned sectors of society shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act to be published in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.
 - **SEC. 3.** Separability Clause. If any portion of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the portions or provisions which are not affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

- **SEC. 4.** Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. Sec. 10. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation
- 5 Approved.