

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 9897



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**Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to the Article 7 (2) of the Family Code of the Philippines, "any priest, rabbi, imam, or minister of any church or religious sect duly authorized by his church or religious sect duly and registered with the civil registrar general, acting within the limits of the written authority granted by his church or religious sect and provided that at least one of the contracting parties belongs to the solemnizing officer's church or religious sect" may solemnize marriage.

This bill seeks to increase the validity of authorization to solemnize marriage of priests, ministers, or rabbis from three (3) to five (5) years, amending Republic Act No. 6514, otherwise known as *An Act that the Authorization to Solemnize Marriage Issued to Priests, or Ministers or Rabbis shall be valid for a period of Three Years the same to Expire in the Thirty-First Day of December of Every Third Year, Amending for the Purpose Article Ninety-Five of the Civil Code of the Philippines and For Other Purposes*. Further, it seeks to require the priests, ministers, or rabbis to undergo annual seminar throughout the whole duration of the validity of the authorization to solemnize marriage.

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

  
ERIC GO YAP

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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE VALIDITY OF AUTHORIZATION TO SOLEMNIZE**  
**MARRIAGE OF PRIESTS, MINISTERS, OR RABBIS FROM THREE (3) TO FIVE**  
**(5) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6514 AND**  
**FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6514 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. Article 95 of Republic Act Numbered Three Hundred and eighty-six is hereby amended to read as follows:"

"Art 95. The public official in charge of registration of priests, ministers or rabbis with the approval of the proper head of department, is hereby authorized to prepare the necessary forms and to promulgate rules and regulations for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Title: provided, that the authorization to solemnize marriages shall be valid for a period of [three] **FIVE** years, shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of every [third] **FIFTH** year, and shall be renewable within the said month of December: provided, further, that the authorizations to solemnize marriage issued prior to and valid on the date of the approval of this amendatory Act shall continue to be valid until the thirty-first day of December of the year when this amendatory Act takes effect, any regulation to the contrary notwithstanding: provided, finally, that the words "my authority to solemnize marriage expires on December 31, 19\_\_\_," shall be indicated in all marriage contracts just below the title of the person so authorized to solemnize marriages."

"Priest or ministers, or rabbis belonging to one diocese religious order or congregation, or sect, may apply for authorization, through their bishop, head of religious order or congregation chief of ministers, or duly authorized representative."

**"PRIEST OR MINISTERS, OR RABBIS SHALL UNDERGO ANNUAL SEMINAR THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE DURATION OF THE VALIDITY OF THE AUTHORIZATION TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE."**

"The public official who is charge of registration may also by regulation fix and collect fees for the authorization to solemnize marriage"

**SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.*** - In case any provision or any part thereof is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared and affected shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,