

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9928



Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Title III, Chapter 4 of the New Civil Code, or Republic Act No. 386, granted priests, rabbis, imams, and ministers of any church or religious sect, authorized by their church or religion, the authority to solemnize marriages. In 1972, by virtue of Republic Act No. 6514, the period of validity of such authority to solemnize marriages was set at three (3) years. In 1987, while the President still wields both executive and legislative power, President Corazon Aquino enacted into law the Family Code, Executive Order No. 209, s. 1987. The Family Code repealed, amended and modified certain provisions of the New Civil Code, including the Title on the Authority to Solemnize Marriages. While the Family Code maintained the authority of religious officers to solemnize marriages, the Code was silent as to the period of validity of such authority. As such, the period of three years as provided in RA No. 6514 remains in effect as it is not inconsistent with the Family Code. The Family Code further specified that the Civil Registrar General has the duty to register and issue the certificate of authorization to solemnize marriages. As it now stands, a Certificate of Registration of Authority to Solemnize Marriage (CRASM) is issued upon a valid application, and upon payment of fees. The CRASM is valid for three (3) years, and renewable on December of the third year.

This bill seeks to extend the validity of the authority granted to priests, rabbis, imams and ministers to solemnize marriages from a period of three (3) years to five (5) years. Any person who solemnizes a marriage without the proper authority may be subjected to criminal and civil liabilities. Extending the validity of the authority, will lessen the expenses of these religious offices in connection with the renewal of their authority, and will help avoid inconveniences for their members who wish to have their marriage solemnized in accordance with their religious rites.

Hence, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


MARK O. GO

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AN ACT
EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE AUTHORIZATION TO SOLEMNIZE
MARRIAGE ISSUED TO PRIESTS, MINISTERS, IMAM, OR RABBIS, FROM A
PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS 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. *Validity of Authorization to Solemnize Marriage-* The authorization to solemnize marriages issued to any priest, rabbi, imam or minister of any church or religious sect duly authorized by their church or religion and registered with the civil register general, shall be valid for a period of five years; shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of every fifth year; and shall be renewable within the said month of December.

SEC. 2. *Validity of Existing Authorization-* The authorizations to solemnize marriage issued prior to and valid on the date of approval of this Act shall continue to be valid and shall expire on the date specified therein.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,