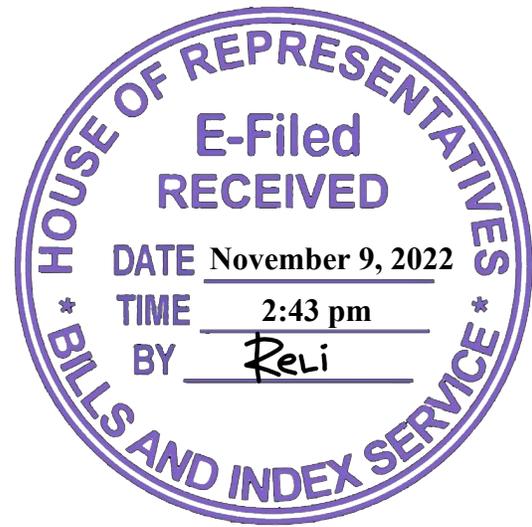


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6000



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**Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

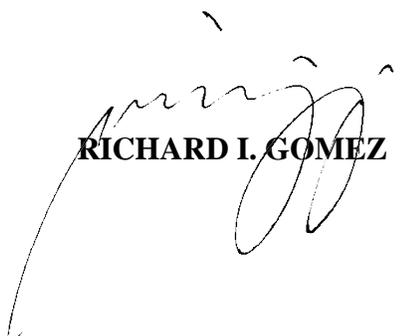
Pursuant to Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8239, the government has the duty to issue passports or any travel document to any citizen of the Philippines or individual who complies with the requirement of the Act.

The shift in passport services to online processing, such as the online appointment system, has increased the demand for passport applications. Naturally, this did not come without its own challenges, such as difficulties in setting appointments and glitches in the system. There is also a lack of slots due to the scarcity in consular offices where Filipinos could avail of passport services.

In support of the Department of Foreign Affairs' plan to open more consular offices to address the problems in its online appointment system, this bill is hereby presented.

This bill proposes a DFA Consular Office to be located in Ormoc, Leyte, which will cater to the municipalities of the 4th District of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran Province and Baybay City, with a total population of close to one million Filipinos. With this view, the problems concerning inefficient appointments system can be mitigated as passport services will be available to the local areas of Leyte. At present, the nearest consular office is situated in Tacloban, which is a two- to three-hour trip either way via land.

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

  
**RICHARD I. GOMEZ**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
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House Bill No. 6000

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONSULAR OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) IN ORMOC CITY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Ormoc Consular Office Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Establishment of the Ormoc Consular Office.* - There shall be established a Consular Office under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to be situated in Ormoc City, Province of Leyte. The office shall cater to the passport services of municipalities of the 4th District of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran Province and Baybay City.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Agency.* - The establishment of the Consular Office in Ormoc City, Leyte shall be implemented by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the construction, establishment, and operationalization of the office shall be charged against the current year appropriations of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary in its regular and continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* — Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,