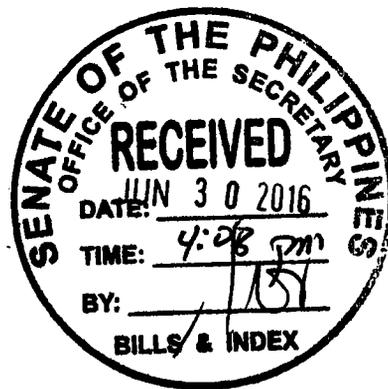


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 109



Introduced by Senator Richard "Dick" J. Gordon

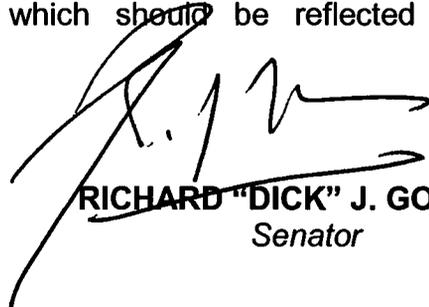
**AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 8239, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996" AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A Philippine passport is an official document issued by the Philippine government to its citizens, requesting other governments to allow its citizens to pass safely and freely, and in case of need, to give its citizens lawful aid and protection. A passport gives the bearer the right to receive the protection and assistance of the diplomatic and consular officer of the Republic of the Philippines abroad.

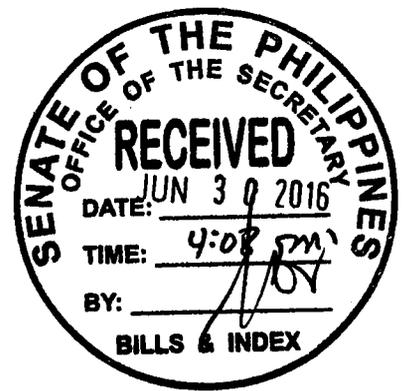
Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, was enacted pursuant to the people's constitutional right to travel. However, at present, the validity of a regular Philippine passport is only five (5) years. In order to ease the process of getting a passport, this bill seeks to lengthen its validity from five (5) years to ten (10) years. Frequent travelers like businessmen and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) will not be burdened with renewing their passports every five (5) years. The tedious renewal involving long cues and loss of valuable time. The processing time usually takes between ten (10) to thirty (30) days, excluding the appointment period and payment of Nine Hundred Fifty Pesos (PhP 950.00) for normal processing or One Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (PhP 1,200.00) for express service.

It is important to note, however, that the validity of the passports of minors or those below 18 years old will remain to be five (5) years due to significant changes in their physical appearance which should be reflected in the identification page of their passports.


RICHARD "DICK" J. GORDON
Senator

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 109



Introduced by Senator Richard "Dick" J. Gordon

**AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 10 of Republic Act 8239 is hereby amended as follows:

2
3 "SEC. 10. Validity. – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a
4 period of [five (5)] TEN (10) years: *Provided, however,* That the issuing authority
5 may limit the period of validity to less than [five (5)] TEN (10) years whenever [in
6 the interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary]
7 NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY OR PUBLIC HEALTH SO REQUIRES
8 OR WHENEVER THE APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS APPEAR
9 INADEQUATE TO ESTABLISH FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP AND THE TRAVEL IS
10 FOR A COMPELLING REASON: *Provided, finally,* That a new passport may be
11 issued to replace one which validity has expired [,the old passport being returned
12 to the holder after cancellation]."

13
14 "THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE TEN (10)-YEAR VALIDITY PASSPORTS
15 WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, AS
16 AMENDED: PROVIDED, THAT FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER EIGHTEEN (18)
17 YEARS OF AGE, ONLY A PASSPORT WITH A FIVE (5)-YEAR VALIDITY
18 SHALL BE ISSUED."

19
20 **SEC. 2. Repealing Clause.** All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and
21 regulations deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
22 modified accordingly.

23 **SEC. 3. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this act is declared
24 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
25 force and effect.

1 **SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect immediately following its
2 complete and full publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
3 circulation.

4
5 *Approved,*