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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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SENATE
S. No. 2917

Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM OF FILING OF DELAYED REGISTRATION OF
BIRTHS IN THE COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3753

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution upholds the inherent dignity and rights of every Filipino, mandating the State to respect human rights and provide special protection and assistance to children, including ensuring access to basic services. These principles highlight the critical role of civil registration as a fundamental mechanism for recognizing and safeguarding the identity and rights of individuals.

In line with these constitutional values, Act No. 3753, also known as the Law on Registry of Civil Status, was enacted, served as the cornerstone of civil registration rules, procedures, and activities in the Philippines for nearly a century. Over time, additional laws have been introduced to complement and enhance its provisions.

However, despite this constitutional mandate and the existence of laws supporting civil registration, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, approximately 3.7 million Filipinos remain unregistered at birth. This statistic highlights a systemic gap, particularly

affecting the most vulnerable groups in society, such as Indigenous Peoples, Muslim communities, and children in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

This systemic issue deprives millions of Filipinos of their legal identity, hindering their access to essential public services such as healthcare, education, and social welfare. It also limits their participation in socio-economic activities and their ability to exercise basic rights, such as voting and owning property.

The bill introduces stricter guidelines and procedures for late registration to ensure authenticity and to prevent abuse. It mandates that birth registration must occur within thirty (30) days of birth but allows for late registration provided that specific conditions are met. These include additional documentation, field visits and interviews by the local civil registrars to verify legitimacy.

Further, this bill requires additional documentation, field visits and interviews by the local civil registrars to ensure that claims of unregistered births are authentic. Moreover, this bill introduces a mandatory ten (10) day public notice period for all late registration applications that allows for objections or challenges to be raised by concerned individuals who can attest to the applicant's claims.

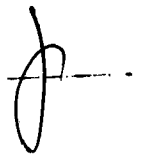
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Delayed*
2 *Registration of Birth Act of 2025.*"

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to promote the
5 importance of civil registry documents to establish identity and civil status, support
6 universal civil registration and to produce accurate, complete and update vital
7 statistics.

8
9 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:
10 a) *Certificate of Live Birth (COLB)* refers to the source of vital information and
11 provides legal proof of the identity of an individual;
12 b) *Civil Registrar General* refers to the head of the Philippine Statistics Authority
13 (PSA) and the one who provides overall direction in the implementation of the Civil
14 Registry Law and related issuances and exercise technical supervision over the local
15 civil registrars;

1 c) *Delayed Registration of Birth* refers to the registration of birth record after
2 the reglementary period of thirty (30) days from the time of birth in the Office of the
3 Local Civil Registrar of the place where it occurred;

4 d) *Local Civil Registrar (LCR) or City/Municipal Civil Registrar* refers to the
5 person officially in-charge with the duty of implementing and enforcing the provisions
6 of the Civil Registry Law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other laws
7 related to civil registration;

8 e) *Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO)* refers to the department in the city or
9 municipal government which is mandated to perform civil registration functions;

10 f) *Negative Certification of Birth Record* refers to the document issued by the
11 PSA certifying that it has no record of the person's birth, marriage or death certificate
12 in its electronic and paper archives; and

13 g) *Registration of Birth* refers to the permanent and official recording of a
14 person's existence.

15
16 **Sec. 4. Requirements on Filing Delayed Registration of Birth.** - A
17 Negative Certification of Birth Record shall be a mandatory requirement for the
18 application of Delayed Registration of Birth. In addition thereto, the following shall
19 also be submitted:

20 a) For a party seeking late registration of birth whose parents are both Filipino citizens:

21 1) If the person is less than eighteen (18) years old:

22 i) Four (4) copies of the Certificate of Live Birth (COLB) duly
23 accomplished and signed by the proper parties;

24 ii) Accomplished Affidavit for Delayed Registration at the back of the
25 COLB by the father, mother or guardian declaring therein, among
26 other things, the following:

- 27 • Name of child;
- 28 • Date and place of birth;
- 29 • Name of the father if the child is illegitimate and has been
- 30 acknowledged by him;
- 31 • If legitimate, the date and place of marriage of parents; and

- Reason for not registering the birth within thirty (30) days after the date of birth
- iii) Negative Certification of Birth Record from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- iv) Certificate of marriage of the parents if the child is legitimate; and
- v) Birth Certificate of the parents.

In case the party seeking late registration of birth of an illegitimate child is not the mother, the party in addition to the foregoing documents, shall submit the following:

- vi) Sworn statement stating the present whereabouts of the mother;
- vii) Any two (2) of the following documentary evidence which may show the name of the child, date and place of birth and name of the mother (and name of the father, if the child has been acknowledge):
 - Baptismal Certificate;
 - School records;
 - Income tax return;
 - Insurance policy;
 - Medical records; and
 - Others, such as barangay chairperson's certification
- viii) Affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons who might have witnessed or known the birth of the child

2) If the person is eighteen (18) years old or above, he/she shall apply for the late registration of his/her birth and the requirements shall be:

- i) All the requirements for a child who is less than eighteen (18) years old; and
- ii) Certificate of marriage, if married

b) For a party seeking late registration of birth, wherein one of the parents is a foreigner:

- 1) Certificate of Marriage of the parents if the child is legitimate;
- 2) Birth certificate of the parents;
- 3) Passport of both parents;

1 4) Affidavit of Admission of Paternity and/or Affidavit to Use the Surname of the
2 Father under Republic Act No. 9255, if the child is illegitimate and was
3 acknowledged by the father; or

4 5) Affidavit of Acknowledgment in case of an illegitimate child born prior to 03
5 August 1988.

6
7 c) When the application for the delayed registration of birth is filed on behalf of
8 another person, in addition to the abovementioned requirements of filing delayed
9 registration of birth:

10 1) Special Power of Attorney (SPA) or Authorization Letter executed by the
11 document owner, authorizing the applicant to file the delayed registration of
12 birth;

13 2) Valid Identification Card of the document owner and the requester or applicant:
14 and

15 3) Affidavit of the document owner or the registrant in case the document owner
16 is already deceased stating the reasons why he/she cannot personally file the
17 application.

18
19 **Sec. 5. Procedures on Delayed Registration of Birth.** - Birth registered later
20 than thirty (30) days after its occurrence is considered a delayed registration. It shall
21 be registered at the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRPO) of the place where the birth
22 occurred. The delayed registration of birth shall undergo the following procedures:

23 a) Upon receiving the application for delayed registration of birth, the
24 City/Municipal Civil Registrar (C/MCR) shall examine the COLB presented
25 whether it has been completely and correctly filled out. The C/MCR shall also
26 evaluate the veracity of the statements made in the Affidavits and other
27 submitted supporting documents through personal interview with the applicant
28 and a field visit to the Office of the Punong Barangay where the child resides
29 to confirm the statements made in the Affidavits and the genuineness of the
30 supporting documents.

31 b) Submission of a Negative Certificate of Live Birth issued by the PSA Civil
32 Registry System Outlets or other authorized issuing centers, must be required

- 1 as a mandatory requirement for the application for delayed registration to
2 ensure that there is no existing birth record registered anywhere in the country;
- 3 c) A notice to the public on the pending application for delayed registration shall
4 be posted for ten (10) consecutive days on a bulletin board outside the office
5 of the local civil registrar located in a conspicuous place within the building and
6 accessible to the general public, as well as in the official website, social media
7 accounts and other official physical and digital media and channels of the local
8 civil registrar and the PSA, subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173,
9 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012; and
- 10 d) If no one opposes the registration after ten (10) days, the C/MCR shall review
11 the application and if convinced beyond doubt that the applicant for Delayed
12 Registration was really born within his/her jurisdiction, the C/MCR shall accept
13 and register the delayed registration of birth.
- 14

15 **Sec. 6. Roles and Responsibilities of the LCRs and the PSA.** - The LCROs of
16 the different cities and municipalities, through their Local Civil Registrars, shall
17 facilitate the registration of birth within their territorial jurisdiction. They shall likewise
18 see to it that the appropriate form is used, the form is properly and completely filled
19 out, entries therein are cored and the proper attachments are submitted. In case the
20 entries are found incomplete or incorrect, the Local Civil Registrars shall require the
21 person concerned to fill out the document completely or to correct the entries, as the
22 case may be.

23

24 The PSA shall have full authority and oversight over LCRs in prescribing standards,
25 criteria and procedures provided in this Act. Likewise, it has the duty to report any
26 irregularities, negligence or incompetency of C/MCR in the performance of his/her
27 functions under this Act to the concerned Mayor for the latter to take the proper
28 disciplinary action.

29

30 **Sec. 7. Collection of Fees.** - Fees collected by LCROs shall be waived if the
31 document owner or applicant is found to be indigent as certified by the Punong
32 Barangay where said document owner or applicant resides.

1
2 **Sec. 8. False Statement.** - Any person who shall knowingly make false
3 statements in the forms furnished and shall present the same for entry in the civil
4 register, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than six (6) months and one
5 (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than One hundred
6 thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos
7 (P250,000.00).

8
9 In addition, if the person who violated the provisions of this Act is a public official,
10 he/she shall be dismissed from service and shall suffer perpetual absolute
11 disqualification to hold public office.

12
13 **Sec. 9. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof
14 be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable from the invalid
15 ones, shall remain in force and effect.

16
17 **Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
18 regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
19 amended or modified accordingly.

20
21 **Sec. 11. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication
22 in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,