




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

'22 JUL -7 P2 :03

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE  
 Senate Bill No. 73

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE AUTHORITY  
 TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE ISSUED TO PRIESTS,  
 MINISTERS OR RABBIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
 ARTICLE 95 OF THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES,  
 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6514 AND FOR  
 OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The authority of solemnizing officers to solemnize marriage is found in Article 7(2), Chapter 1, Title I of the Family Code of the Philippines. Included in the enumeration of solemnizing officers are "Any priest, rabbi, imam, or minister of any church or religious sect and registered with the civil registrar general, acting within the limits of the written authority granted him 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."

This authority of the solemnizing officer is one of the formal requisites of marriage and absent such will render the marriage *void ab*

*initio*. Under Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6514<sup>1</sup>, the “authorization to solemnize marriages shall be valid for a period of three years.” Considering that these priests, rabbis, imams, and ministers devote most of their time to worship and participating in activities of their church or religious sect, this bill seeks to lengthen the validity of their authority to solemnize marriage to five years in order to give them more time and opportunity to render such service and at the same time reduce the costs related to the processing of the renewal of their authority.

Therefore, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III**

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<sup>1</sup> 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 on 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. Approved On July 22, 1972.



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Article 95 of the Civil Code of the Philippines or  
2 Republic Act No. 386, as amended by Republic Act No. 6514, is  
3 hereby further amended to read as follows:

4  
5           “ART. 95. The public official in charge of  
6 registration of priests, ministers or rabbis with the  
7 approval of the proper head of department, is hereby  
8 authorized to prepare the necessary forms and to  
9 promulgate rules and regulations for the purpose of  
10 enforcing the provisions of this Title; *Provided*, That  
11 the authorization to solemnize marriages shall be valid  
12 for a period of [three] **FIVE** years, shall expire on the  
13 thirty-first day of December of every [third] **FIFTH**  
14 year, and shall be renewable within the said month of

1 December; *Provided, further*, That the authorizations  
2 to solemnize marriage issued prior to and valid on the  
3 date of the approval of this amendatory Act shall  
4 continue to be valid until [the thirty-first day of  
5 December of the year when this amendatory Act takes  
6 effect, any regulation to the contrary notwithstanding]  
7 **ITS ORIGINAL EXPIRATION DATE**; *Provided,*  
8 *finally*, That the words "my authority to solemnize  
9 marriage expires on December 31, [19]20\_\_\_," shall  
10 be indicated in all marriage contracts just below the  
11 title of the person so authorized to solemnize  
12 marriages.

13  
14 Priest or ministers, or rabbis belonging to one  
15 diocese religious order or congregation, or sect, may  
16 apply for authorization, through their bishop, head of  
17 religious order or congregation chief of ministers, or  
18 duly authorized representative.

19  
20 The public official who is charge of registration  
21 may also by regulation fix and collect fees for the  
22 authorization to solemnize marriage.”

23  
24 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
25 rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
26 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

27  
28 **SEC. 3. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
29 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)  
30 newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*