

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1823**



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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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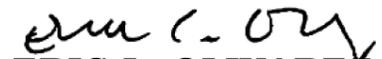
### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Our medical doctores are not doubt among the selfless heroes who have been fighting our nation battle against the Covid-19 Pandemic since the early part of the year 2020. Since May of the aforementioned year, doctors accounted for 2 out of 5 deaths among health workers infected with Covid-19 in the Philippines. Atleast 1,761 physicians tested positive for the desease as of October 3. This means that the case fatality rate for doctors was at 1.48%, which is the highest amongthe health workers who contracted Covid-19.

Indeed, doctors who treat Covid-19 patients are highly at risk not only contracting the virus but also suffering demise therefrom. While there is not much study or discussion on the direct link or causation between the profession and the higher risk of death, it cannot be denied that the job entailed by the profession does require close proximity and more often than not direct contact with the patient, whether for Covid-19 or other non-Covid-19 disease that need be attended to in the midst of the pandemic.

As way to repay the heroic efforts of our medical doctors, this Bill proposes a little incentive in the form if extending the validity of their medical licenses from three years to five years to somehow minimize their costs and allow them to practice their profession for a longer but still reasonable period of time.

This Bills anchor its objective in the belief that extending the validity of the licenses of medical doctors for another two years will not in any way diminish their competence of knowledge with regard to the practice of their profession. After all, the Continuing Professional Development Program as amended by Republic Act 10912 still stands, with structure, units, and other related concerns being subject to adjustment by the Professional Regulatory Commission and other relevant authorities in the event that this bill is passed.

  
**ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FIVE-YEAR VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE  
PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS OF ALL PROFESSIONALS  
COVERED BY THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION**

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

**SECTION 1.** All Professional Identification Cards (PICs) issued by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) shall be valid for a period of five (5) years, subject to compliance with all legal and procedural requirements for its issuance.

**SEC. 2.** In order to operationalize the provisions of this Act, the Information and Communication Technology Service (ICTS) and other concerned offices/divisions of the PRC shall complete the necessary systems enhancement (Licensure Examination Registration Information System or the LERIS) and other administrative processes, including the finalization of the revised assessment of annual registration fees within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 3.** If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in full force and effect.

**SEC. 4.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,