

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10930, August 02, 2017]

AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE POLICY REGARDING DRIVER'S LICENCES, AND PENALIZING ACTS IN VIOLATION OF ITS ISSUANCE AND APPLICATION, AMENDING FOR THOSE PURPOSES SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 398 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1011, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.*- It shall be the policy of the State to establish a system that promotes the ease of access to government services and efficient transportation regulation favorable to the people.

SEC. 2. Section 23 of Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the "Land Transportation and Traffic Code", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 23. *Issuance of Driver's License, Fees and Validity.*- If, after such examination, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) Head or his/her deputies find that the applicant possesses the necessary qualification and proficiency in the operation of motor vehicles, is able to read and write any of the official languages or a major dialect and knows how to read and interpret various traffic signs, signals and road markings, a professional or nonprofessional license may be issued to such applicant upon payment of the fee prescribed in accordance with law, and which shall not cost more than the governments's procurement expense, but prior to the issuance of said license, the applicant shall present himself/herself in person and have his/her photograph taken by the LTO. All driver's licences issued shall be signed in the presence of the LTO Head or his/her deputies and shall bear, among others, the full name, date of birth, height, weight, sex, color of eyes, blood type, complete current address, biometrics, license number, and its date of issue and expiration.

"In this issuance of licenses, the LTO shall now use such process or adopt such measures as will prevent any alteration or falsification of a license or will enable the LTO to detect any unauthorized license. The LTO shall create an online process for the renewal of professional and nonprofessional licenses within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

"Except for student permits, all drivers' licenses shall be valid for five (5) years reckoned from the birthdate of the licensee, unless sooner revoked

or suspended: *Provided, however,* That subject to Section 26 hereof, any holder of a professional or nonprofessional driver's license who has not committed any violation of Republic Act No. 4136 and other traffic laws, rules and regulations during the five (5)-year period shall be entitled to a renewal of such license for ten (10) years, subject to the restrictions as may be imposed by the LTO.

"The local government units (LGUs), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) or other agencies lawfully issuing traffic violation receipts shall report within a reasonable time, to be determined in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR), the details of the traffic violation to the LTO, which shall serve as the repository of all traffic violation records."

SEC. 3. A new section is hereby added after Section 23 of the same Act and numbered as Section 23-A, to read as follows:

"SEC. 23-A. *Establishment of Stricter Rules Before the Issuance of Driver's License.*- The LTO shall promulgate prerequisites and guidelines before the grant of driver's licenses to ensure that these are issued only to deserving applicants with sufficient driving skills and knowledge on road safety and proper road courtesy.

"Toward this end, the conduct of theoretical and practical examinations, among others, must sufficiently measure the competency of drivers and must be designed to the type of license applied for and its corresponding restrictions: *Provided,* That for professional drivers, the tests must be appropriate to the vehicle and type of service the applicant intends to operate."

SEC. 4. A new section is hereby added after Section 23-A of the same Act and numbered as 23-B, to read as follows:

"SEC. 23-B. *Penalties.*- Without prejudice to the penalties provided under the Revised Penal Code and other applicable laws, the penalties corresponding to the following acts shall be imposed by the appropriate agency or officer:

"(a) Any officer who, in any manner, issues a driver's license without the necessary examinations, connives with the applicant for the irregular issuance of a license, or who, by gross negligence, issues a driver's license to an unqualified applicant shall suffer a penalty of removal from the service with all the accessory penalties attached thereto;

"(b) A fine in the amount of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) shall be imposed upon an applicant for a driver's license found to have committed any of the following acts:

"(1) Willfull misrepresentation with respect to material information in one's application;

"(2) Connivance with the officer in the irregular conduct of examinations or issuance of license;