

30 September 2016

**REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK F. ABUEG**

Chairperson

**Committee on Social Services**

RVM Building, House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear **Representative Abueg**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **House Bill Nos. 46** and **586** or the “**Civil Registration Act**”, introduced by Representatives Lawrence Lemuel Fortun and Leopoldo Bataoil, respectively, which seeks to standardize, modernize, and simplify the registration procedures to establish the identity of the individual for administrative and legal purposes.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. **Sec. 4 – Definition of Terms**

- 1.1 To synchronize the term “Civil Registrar General” and his/her functions with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10625 or the “*Philippine Statistical Act*”; and
- 1.2 To include definition for “**Out-of-town Registration**”.

2. **Sec. 8 Registration and Certification of Birth**

**Allow the registration of birth of abandoned children** or foundlings beyond the prescribed 30-day period for them to have birth certificates instead of foundling certificates.

3. **Sec. 9 (HBN 586) & Sec. 11 (HBN 46) – Registration and Certification of Death**

- 3.1 The reporting of a person's death especially in cases of non-working days and/or the absence of the authority concerned should happen “**immediately on the next working day**” instead of within “forty-eight (48) hours”;
- 3.2 For death under medico-legal investigation, state that the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) may cause the registration of death only in cases where the deceased has no existing or known relatives; and
- 3.3 Also, **consider instances and state who are authorized to cause the delayed registration** of death.

4. **Sec. 13 (HBN 586) & Sec. 15 (HBN 46) – Multiple Registration**

4.1 Provide for **remedies and procedures** to address multiple registration.

In birth registration, while the first registration is the one that prevails, there is no law or administrative issuance that provides for the treatment and cancellation of the other registration/s.

4.2 The **Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)** and **Local Civil Registrars (LCRs)** must be directed how to legally and validly discard the other registrations from their official records.

5. **Sec. 22 (HBN 586) & Sec. 24 (HBN 46) – Authorization or Ratification of Artificial Insemination**

**Clarify if the provision has the effect of making sperm donation lawful in the country.** Despite authorization and ratification of the couple, having sperm donation from another man and registering the child born from the same under the names of the couple may be indirect way of simulating a birth.

6. **Sec. 32 (HBN 586) & Sec. 34 (HBN 46) - Mandatory Review**

To shorten the mandatory review to **five (5) years**. The period of ten (10) years to undergo mandatory review of the law by Congress may be too long.


7. To include the following Sections:

8.8 **Implementing Rules and Regulations** (PSA, DFA, LCR, DSWD, and other concerned government agencies and stakeholders); and

8.9 **Registration of birth of undocumented children** born abroad and/or repatriated to the Philippines;

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
JUDY M. TAGUIWALO  
Secretary  
