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**SENATE**  
**S. B. No. 2387**

(In substitution of Senate Bill No. 1868)

RECEIVED BY

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Prepared by the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship with  
Senators Sonny Angara, Mark Villar, Loren Legarda, and Joel Villanueva,  
as authors thereof

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR**  
**AGRICULTURAL OR NATURAL (UNPROCESSED OR WILD) PRODUCTS,**  
**PROCESSED PRODUCTS, WINES AND SPIRITS, OR ANY PRODUCTS OF**  
**HANDICRAFT OR INDUSTRY**

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

**Article I**

**General Provisions**

1       **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Protected*  
2       *Geographical Indications Act.*"

3       **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policies.** – The State recognizes the importance of  
4       geographical indications in agricultural, economic, and cultural development. It  
5       increases the competitive advantage of agricultural and industrial products with  
6       unique quality, reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to their  
7       geographical origin, thereby facilitating local and foreign market access and  
8       recognition. Further, rural socio-economic development is bolstered by the consequent  
9       creation of job opportunities from production, processing, and distribution.

10       Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to protect and promote these  
11       industries by helping producers communicate the product characteristics and their  
12       attributes to buyers and consumers to ensure:

- 1 a) Fair competition of producers;
- 2 b) Availability of reliable information to consumers;
- 3 c) Respect for intellectual property rights; and
- 4 d) Integrity of the market.

5 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms  
6 are hereunder defined accordingly:

- 7 a) *Bureau* refers to the Bureau of Trademarks;
- 8 b) *Control System* refers to the verification of the compliance of goods with  
9 the Manual of Specifications, either by internal or external authorities;
- 10 c) *Director General* refers to the Director General of the IPOPHL;
- 11 d) *E-Gazette* refers to the IPOPHL's own publication where all matters required  
12 to be published under the IP Code shall be published;
- 13 e) *Evocation of a Geographical Indication* refers to a term, sign, or other  
14 labelling or packaging device that presents a direct and clear link with the  
15 product covered by a protected geographical indication in the mind of the  
16 reasonably intelligent consumer, thereby exploiting, weakening, diluting or  
17 being detrimental to the reputation of the registered name;
- 18 f) *Fees* refer to costs imposed on direct recipients of public goods and services  
19 provided and performed by the IPOPHL in the exercise of its functions. They  
20 also include charges and other costs;
- 21 g) *Geographical Indication (GI)* refers to indications which identify a good or  
22 product as originating in a territory, region, or locality, where a given  
23 quality, reputation, or other characteristic of the good is essentially  
24 attributable to its geographical origin and/or human factors;
- 25 h) *Goods/Products* refer to any agricultural or natural (unprocessed or wild)  
26 products, processed products, including foodstuff and alcoholic beverages,  
27 or any products of handicraft or industry;
- 28 i) *Homonymous Geographical Indication* refers to a geographical indication  
29 that, in part or in whole, has the same spelling as, or sounds alike as,  
30 another geographical indication but identifies goods having a different  
31 geographical origin;

- 1 j) *Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICC/IPs)* refers to a  
2 group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and  
3 ascription by others, who have continuously lived as organized communities  
4 on communally bounded and defined territories, and who have, under  
5 claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and  
6 utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language, customs,  
7 traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through  
8 resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-  
9 indigenous religions and cultures, became historically differentiated from  
10 the majority of Filipinos. ICC/IPs shall likewise include peoples who are  
11 regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations  
12 which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or colonization, or at  
13 the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the  
14 establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of their  
15 own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have  
16 been displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled  
17 outside their ancestral domains;
- 18 k) *Indication* refers to a sign which is used to identify a good, either a  
19 geographical name (name of a territory, region, or locality, or under  
20 exceptional circumstances, the name of a country), a non-geographical  
21 name, an emblem or any other distinctive symbol;
- 22 l) *IP Code* refers to Republic Act No. 8293 otherwise known as the Intellectual  
23 Property Code of the Philippines;
- 24 m) *IPOPHL* refers to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines;
- 25 n) *Manual of Specifications* refers to a document that contains the name to be  
26 protected as a geographical indication, description of the goods, the  
27 delimited geographical area where the goods are produced, and an  
28 explanation of the link between the said area and its quality, reputation, or  
29 characteristics; description of its production processes; control system and  
30 quality standards; labeling rules, among others;

- 1 o) *Paris Convention* refers to the Convention for the Protection of Industrial  
2 Property signed at Paris on 20 March 1883, and any revision or amendment  
3 thereto which has become into force in the Philippines;
- 4 p) *Person* refers to any juridical person, organization, association or duly  
5 constituted government unit, body, or agency;
- 6 q) *Producer* refers to:  
7 i. any producer of agricultural product or natural products;  
8 ii. any processor of natural or agricultural or agri-food products;  
9 iii. any industry or manufacturer of products of handicraft; and  
10 iv. any trader dealing in the products mentioned in paragraphs (i), (ii), and  
11 (iii);
- 12 r) *Registrar* refers to the Registrar of Geographical Indications;
- 13 s) *Rules* refers to the Rules and Regulations on Geographical Indications;
- 14 t) *Use of Geographical Indication* refers to offer for sale, production, sale,  
15 export or import of geographical indication goods as well as any promotion  
16 and communication material in relation to the geographical indication goods  
17 and other preparatory steps necessary to carry out the sale or export of  
18 goods protected as geographical indications.

## 19 Article II

### 20 Protected Geographical Indications

21 **Sec. 4. Objectives.** – A scheme for protected geographical indications is  
22 established in order to help producers of products linked to a geographical area by:

- 23 a) Securing fair returns for the qualities of their products;
- 24 b) Ensuring uniform protection of the product's geographical indication as an  
25 intellectual property right;
- 26 c) Providing clear information on the value-adding attributes of the product to  
27 the consumers;
- 28 d) Regulating or managing the procedure related to the registration of  
29 geographical indications;
- 30 e) Protecting geographical indications, including in the unfair competition  
31 procedures;
- 32 f) Promoting geographical indication rights and products; and



1 g) Protecting producers from anti-competitive practices in the registration and  
2 use of geographical indications.

3 **Sec. 5. Generic nature, conflicts with names of plant varieties and**  
4 **animal breeds, with homonyms and trademarks.** – Generic terms shall not be  
5 registered as protected geographical indications. A name may not be registered as a  
6 geographical indication where it conflicts with a name of a plant variety or an animal  
7 breed and is likely to mislead the consumer as to the true origin of the product.

8 A name proposed for registration that is wholly or partially homonymous with  
9 a name already entered in the register may not be registered, unless, after comparing  
10 the homonym sought to be registered and the name already entered in the register,  
11 there is sufficient distinction in practice between the conditions of their local and  
12 traditional usage and presentation, taking into consideration the need to ensure  
13 equitable treatment of the producers concerned and that consumers are not misled.

14 **Sec. 6. Names, Symbols, and Indications.** – Protected geographical  
15 indications may be used by any operator marketing a product which conforms to its  
16 corresponding specifications.

17 A national logo designed to publicize protected geographical indications shall  
18 be established. The Bureau shall constitute a National Logo to certify all registered  
19 geographical indication goods in the Philippines.

20 **Sec. 7. Acquisition of Rights.** – The enhanced protection afforded under this  
21 Act to any indication constituting a geographical indication shall be obtained through  
22 valid registration and a certificate issued to that effect by the Bureau.

23 **Sec. 8. Rights of Registrants.** – Registered Geographical Indications shall  
24 be protected against:

- 25 a) Any direct or indirect commercial use of a registered name with respect to  
26 products not covered by the registration where those products are  
27 comparable to the products registered or where using the name exploits the  
28 reputation of the protected name, including when those products are used  
29 as an ingredient;
- 30 b) Any misuse, imitation, or evocation, even if the true origin of the products  
31 or services is indicated or if the protected name is translated or  
32 accompanied by an expression such as 'style', 'type', 'method', 'as produced

1 in', 'imitation' or similar, including when those products are used as an  
2 ingredient;

3 c) Any other false or misleading indication as to the provenance, origin, nature,  
4 or essential qualities of the product that is used on the inner or outer  
5 packaging, advertising material, or documents relating to the product  
6 concerned, and the packing of the product in a container tending to convey  
7 a false impression as to its origin;

8 d) Any use of a geographical indication which constitutes an act of unfair  
9 competition within the meaning of Article 10*bis* of the Paris Convention; and

10 e) Any other practice that tends to mislead the consumer as to the true origin  
11 of the product.

12 Where a protected geographical indication contains within it the name of a  
13 product which is considered to be generic, the use of that generic name shall not be  
14 considered to be contrary to sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of the preceding paragraph.

15 Protected geographical indications shall not become generic.

### 16 **Article III**

#### 17 **Powers and Authority of the IPOPHL**

18 **Sec. 9. *Geographical Indications Registrar.*** – The Director of the Bureau  
19 of Trademarks shall act as the Registrar of Geographical Indications who has the  
20 authority to examine and register applications for the registration of geographical  
21 indications, and implement the provisions of this Act.

22 **Sec. 10. *Register of Protected Geographical Indications.*** – The Registrar  
23 shall keep and maintain a register to be known as the Register of Protected  
24 Geographical Indications which shall contain all the recorded particulars as the  
25 Registrar deems appropriate.

26 The Register shall be open to the inspection of the public during business hours,  
27 and accessible/searchable online, subject to certain conditions as the Registrar may  
28 prescribe. A certified true copy or extract of any entry in the Register shall be provided  
29 to any person requiring the copy or extract upon payment of the prescribed fee.

30 The Registrar, as soon as practicable, shall make applications for registration  
31 available and allow for the filing of observation or objections online or in electronic  
32 form.

1           **Sec. 11. Powers of the Bureau of Legal Affairs.** – The Bureau of Legal  
2 Affairs (BLA) of the IPOPHL shall have the authority to adjudicate on oppositions to  
3 the application for geographical indication and cancellations of registered geographical  
4 indications. The BLA shall also exercise original and exclusive jurisdiction in  
5 administrative complaints for geographical indication infringement and other violations  
6 of this Act.

7           The BLA shall also have the power to resolve disputes other than the  
8 aforementioned through alternative modes of dispute resolution.

9           **Sec. 12. Roles of Relevant Government Agencies.** – Pursuant to their  
10 respective mandates, the IPOPHL, the Department of Agriculture (DA), the  
11 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Science and Technology  
12 (DOST), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National  
13 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Commission on Indigenous  
14 Peoples (NCIP), the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), and such other  
15 agencies and local government units as may be appropriate, shall collaborate to  
16 support and encourage the development of domestic products with origin-linked  
17 quality, characteristics, or reputation to be granted geographical indication protection  
18 under the provisions of this Act.

19           The IPOPHL, DA, DTI, DOST, DENR, NCCA, NCIP, CDA, or such other relevant  
20 agencies as may be appropriate, shall conduct capacity-building and research and  
21 development activities and/or projects for potential geographical indication producers  
22 and stakeholders, such as but not limited to the formulation of a manual of  
23 specifications, branding, packaging, and marketing of the geographical indication  
24 protected product. The agencies shall assist these potential geographical indication  
25 producers and stakeholders in ascertaining, validating, and certifying, as needed, the  
26 link of the quality, characteristics, or reputation of the goods to the territory, and shall  
27 provide such other services to support their needs.

28           The agencies shall allocate the necessary appropriations of their respective  
29 annual budget to implement these mandates subject to existing budgeting,  
30 accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.



1 **Article IV**

2 **Registration**

3 **Sec. 13. Applicants.** – The following may make an application to the Registrar  
4 for the registration of a geographical indication:

- 5 a) Producers referred in Section 3(q) of this Act or producers' organization or  
6 association representing stakeholders directly involved in the extraction,  
7 production manufacture and trade of the goods covered by the geographical  
8 indication;
- 9 b) Government agencies or local government units having area of responsibility  
10 covering the geographical origin of the goods, as well as representatives of  
11 foreign governments, relative to the geographical indication of its nationals,  
12 whose laws afford the same rights and protection to Philippine nationals; and
- 13 c) Organizations or associations or indigenous cultural communities/indigenous  
14 peoples which are specifically entrusted with the task of regulating and/or  
15 protecting geographical indication by paragraphs (a) or (b).

16 **Sec. 14. Representation; Address for Service.** – If the applicant is not  
17 domiciled nor has no real and effective commercial establishment in the Philippines,  
18 it shall designate by a written document filed in the IPOPHL, the name and address  
19 of a Philippine resident or representative from the Embassy, Consulate or Chamber of  
20 Commerce in the Philippines of the country where the goods originated, who may be  
21 served notices or process in proceedings affecting the geographical indication. Such  
22 notices or services may be served upon the person so designated by leaving a copy  
23 thereof at the address specified in the last designation filed. If the person so  
24 designated cannot be found at the address given in the last designation, such notice  
25 or process may be served upon the Registrar.

26 **Sec. 15. Additional Qualifications for Non-Filipino Applicants.** – The  
27 applicant, as defined in Section 13 of this Act, who is neither a domestic corporation  
28 or organization/association nor a local government unit, body or agency and intends  
29 to apply for registration of a geographical indication of a foreign country must also  
30 have any of the following qualifications:

- 31 a) A juridical entity incorporated or organized in a country which is a party to  
32 the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of



1 Intellectual Property Right or to other international convention or agreement  
2 concerning the protection of geographical indications, to which the  
3 Philippines is also a party; or

- 4 b) Domiciled or has a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment  
5 in the Philippines or in a country which is a party to an international  
6 convention or agreement concerning the protection of geographical  
7 indications, to which Philippines is also a party.

8 **Sec. 16. Requirements of Application.** – The application for the registration  
9 of the geographical indication shall be in the prescribed form, may be in Filipino or in  
10 English and, shall be filed before the Registrar, containing the following details:

- 11 a) Name and address of the applicant;  
12 b) Name of the State of which the applicant is a juridical entity or the law under  
13 which it is organized and existing; or name of the State in which the  
14 applicant has a domicile or has a real and effective industrial or commercial  
15 establishment;  
16 c) Name of the geographical indication sought to be registered;  
17 d) The goods to which the geographical indication applies;  
18 e) Description of the geographical area to which the geographical indication  
19 applies, including its territorial limitations or boundaries;  
20 f) Description of the specific quality, reputation, or other characteristic of the  
21 goods and how that quality, reputation, or other characteristic, as the case  
22 may be, is essentially attributable to the geographical origin and/or human  
23 factors;  
24 g) Copy of the Manual of Specifications duly formulated and adopted by the  
25 stakeholders or its governing board or council;  
26 h) Certification from the concerned government agency or equivalent  
27 independent body:  
28 i. Validating the causal link between specific quality, reputation or  
29 other characteristic of the goods and the geographical area where  
30 it originated or produced as described in paragraph f of this section;  
31 and







- 1 d) Those which consist exclusively of, or identical with, a generic, common or  
2 customary name of the goods in the Philippines and the geographical  
3 indication sought to be registered will be applied for the same goods;  
4 e) Those which are identical with or confusingly similar to the name of a plant  
5 variety or animal breed and is likely to mislead the consumer as to the true  
6 origin of the goods;  
7 f) Those which do not fall within the prescribed definition of geographical  
8 indication; and  
9 g) Those which are identical with, or confusingly similar to, or an evocation of,  
10 an earlier filed or registered geographical indication in the Philippines or in  
11 a treaty or international agreement of which the Philippines is a member in  
12 respect of the same goods or closely related goods as to cause confusion.

13 **Sec. 25. Order of Refusal.** – Upon proper notification, an Order of Refusal  
14 shall be issued by the Registrar to the applicant who may appeal the same to the  
15 Director General in accordance with the Uniform Rules on Appeal. No motion for  
16 reconsideration of the Registrar’s decision is allowed.

### 17 **Article VIII**

#### 18 **Publication**

19 **Sec. 26. Publication.** – When the Registrar finds that the requirements  
20 prescribed by this Act are satisfied, it shall, upon payment of the prescribed fee,  
21 forthwith cause the application to be published in the e-Gazette for a period of one  
22 (1) month. The publication shall include the following:

- 23 a) Application number;  
24 b) Filing date;  
25 c) All the details set forth under Section 16 of this Act; and  
26 d) Other matters which the Registrar may deem necessary.

### 27 **Article IX**

#### 28 **Opposition to the Registration of Geographical Indication**

29 **Sec. 27. Opposition.** – a) Within one (1) month from the publication of the  
30 application of the geographical indication and upon payment of the prescribed fee,  
31 any interested person who may be damaged by its registration may file a notice to  
32 oppose the registrability of the geographical indication before the BLA of the IPOPHL.

1 The interested party may, in lieu of a notice, file a written request for extension of  
2 one (1) month for good cause and upon payment of the required fee.

3 b) Within one (1) month from receipt by the BLA of such notice or request for  
4 extension, a verified and written opposition, including supporting documents, must  
5 also be submitted, without need of any notification from the BLA. Failure to comply  
6 within the prescribed period will result in the dismissal of the Opposition. In no case  
7 shall the filing of the verified opposition exceed two (2) months from the publication  
8 date of the application.

9 (c) A copy of the opposition shall be furnished by the BLA to the applicant who  
10 may comment on it within one (1) month from receipt of the order. The opposition  
11 will be taken into consideration by the BLA in deciding whether to grant or refuse  
12 protection to the geographical indication being applied for.

### 13 **Article X**

#### 14 **Term of Protection**

15 **Sec. 28. Finality of Decision; Registration and Term of Protection.** – If  
16 no opposition is filed within the prescribed period, the geographical indication shall be  
17 granted protection on the day immediately after the last day of publication and  
18 entered in the Register of Protected Geographical Indications. In case there is an  
19 opposition, the protection shall be reckoned from the finality of the decision that the  
20 geographical indication is entitled to registration and protection. The registered  
21 geographical indication is protected for an unlimited term until or unless revoked with  
22 finality.

### 23 **Article XI**

#### 24 **Amendment**

25 **Sec. 29. Amendment of an Application or Registration.** – The application  
26 for registration or the registration of a geographical indication may be amended, at  
27 the request of the applicant or registrant, to correct the formalities in the application  
28 or registration and the details in the Manual of Specifications.

### 29 **Article XII**

#### 30 **Cancellation of Registration; Dispute Resolution**

31 **Sec. 30. Cancellation of Registration.** – At any time, upon payment of the  
32 prescribed fee and upon a verified petition by any interested person that the protection

1 of geographical indication accorded under Section 7 of this Act is no longer warranted,  
2 due notice and opportunity to be heard shall be given to the registrant and if the same  
3 petition is found to be meritorious, the BLA shall cancel the registration based on any  
4 of the following grounds:

- 5 a) The conditions for protection specified under Section 3(g) of this Act have  
6 not been fulfilled;
- 7 b) There has been a change in the geographical origin of the goods including  
8 the natural and human factors, which are determinative of the quality,  
9 reputation or characteristics of the goods bearing a geographical indication  
10 and such change results in the disqualification;
- 11 c) Based on the ruling or decision of the court or tribunal, the applicant-  
12 registrant referred to under Section 13 of this Act has no effective control  
13 over the use of the geographical indication, standards of production of the  
14 goods and other product specifications;
- 15 d) The registration of the geographical indication was obtained through false  
16 statements and documents during the course of the application; and
- 17 e) The registered or protected geographical indication has been proven to be  
18 generic or a common or customary name of the goods covered thereby in  
19 the Philippines prior to the grant of protection.

20 **Sec. 31. Notice of Verified Petition.** – The BLA shall notify and furnish a  
21 copy of the verified petition to the concerned registrant of the geographical indication  
22 who may comment to it within one (1) month from receipt of the order.

23 The period to file the comment may be extended for another one (1) month  
24 upon written request of the registrant for good and sufficient cause and upon payment  
25 of the required fee. Thereafter, the petition shall be submitted for decision of the  
26 Director of the BLA. In no case shall the filing of the comment exceed two (2) months  
27 from the date of receipt of the notice to comment.

28 **Sec. 32. Appeal.** – The decision of the BLA shall be final and executory unless  
29 appealed to the office of the Director General as provided under the uniform rules on  
30 appeal. No motion for reconsideration of the BLA Director’s decision is allowed.

31 **Sec. 33. Dispute Resolution.** – Notwithstanding any contrary provision in  
32 the Manual of Specifications, if the approval of the association cannot be obtained as



1 regards the formulation and/or implementation of any of the provisions and  
2 requirements in the Manual, including control processes and standards, and labeling  
3 rules, the same shall also be referred to the BLA for mediation as provided under the  
4 implementing rules.

5 In case of any internal dispute, or any issue on the use and/or misuse of the  
6 geographical indication on the products specified in the registration by members of  
7 the applicant/registrant or authorized users thereof, or those involving conflicts and  
8 issues in the admission of stakeholders to the association and/or in imposing  
9 prohibitions on use of the registered geographical indication, these may be referred  
10 to the BLA for mediation as governed by the relevant implementing rules and  
11 regulations.

12 If the settlement agreement involves the implementation of the Manual of  
13 Specifications, the same is subject to review by the Registrar and/or any certifying  
14 government agency if the issue relates to the causal link of the products with the  
15 geographical area or any technical information on the product specification embodied  
16 in the Manual of Specifications. Upon clearance by the Registrar and/or certifying  
17 government agency, the settlement agreement shall be deemed final and will be  
18 incorporated in the Manual of Specifications.

19 In the event mediation proceedings fail, the parties may be referred to the BLA  
20 for arbitration as provided in the rules and regulations.

## 21 **Article XIII**

### 22 **Exceptions**

#### 23 **Sec. 34. *Prior Users of Geographical Indications and Trademarks.* –**

24 1) Nothing in this Act shall prevent the continued or similar use of a particular  
25 geographical indication of another country identifying goods in connection with goods  
26 or services by any national or domiciliary of the Philippines or any national with real  
27 or effective commercial establishment in, or doing business in the Philippines, who  
28 have used said geographical indication in a continuous manner with regard to the  
29 same or related goods or services in the Philippines either -

30 a) For at least 10 years before April 15, 1994; or

31 b) In good faith before April 15, 1994.



1 without the consent or authorization from the registrant, is considered as an  
2 infringement and offense against the economic interest of the State. The State can  
3 *motu proprio* take administrative or legal measures to enforce protection of  
4 geographical indication against the geographical indication's infringers.

5 **Sec. 40. Penalties.** – Independent of the civil and administrative sanctions  
6 imposed by law, a criminal penalty of imprisonment from two (2) years to five (5)  
7 years and a fine ranging from five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to one  
8 million pesos (P1,000,000.00), shall be imposed on any person who is found guilty of  
9 committing infringement of geographical indications.

## 10 **Article XVI**

### 11 **Final Provisions**

12 **Sec. 41. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the conduct of  
13 activities and projects in relation to capacity-building, research and development, and  
14 assistance to potential and registered geographical indication producers shall be  
15 sourced from the budgets of the different government agencies tasked to implement  
16 the same.

17 **Sec. 42. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety days (90)  
18 after the effectivity of this Act, the IPOPHL, in consultation with the relevant  
19 stakeholders, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary  
20 to carry out the provisions of this Act.

21 **Sec. 43. Transitory Provision.** – Geographical indications registered by the  
22 IPOPHL under Republic Act No. 8293 and its regulations prior to the effectivity of this  
23 Act shall remain valid and effective. They shall automatically be transferred to, and  
24 form part of, the register created under this Act.

25 **Sec. 44. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, acts, presidential decrees or  
26 proclamations, issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative  
27 orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions  
28 of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

29 **Sec. 45. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
30 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
31 remain in full force and effect.



1           **Sec. 46. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*