

SENATE
SECRETARY
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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 214

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In today's knowledge-based global village, the capability to maximize the use of information technology is critical to the competitiveness of business enterprises. Many countries have realized the value of building up their business databanks as a national priority. These databanks provide information for economic development, facilitating the integration of local business into the world market. Developed and developing countries have channeled significant resources to ensure that their business communities are connected electronically to the global information superhighway.

The Philippines has no mechanism for generating and maintaining a high integrity and sustainable business database that is truly national in scope. There have been efforts to address this need, but they are fragmented, and suffer from unsustainable programs, formats and integrity. Thus, there is a need to establish a unified, reliable and sustainable mechanism in the form of a Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD).

This bill seeks to create the PBRD as the main repository of information on business enterprises in the Philippines. In essence, the PBRD shall promote and expand trade and investment through electronic information networking. It shall facilitate the establishment of business partnerships between Filipino entrepreneurs and foreign counterparts. Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs) are expected to be the main beneficiaries of the PBRD.

The PBRD shall be a collaborative effort between the government and the private sector. The collection of business data shall be done through a joint effort of the local government units and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) through its local chambers. The data shall be generated through a special PBRD form attached to the Mayor's Permit form, when business apply annually for their business permits. The local chambers of the PCCI will ensure that the data is collected, encoded and transmitted to the PBRD.

The endeavor will strengthen the advocacy roles and service capabilities of local chambers, particularly in the area of investment promotions, consultancy services and business matching. The PCCI has a vast global reach and national network opportunities to be made available for the Philippine SME's nationwide. Hence through the PBRD, the provincial and local business communities and country in general will be moving faster in the path of economic development.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly urged.



SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHILIPPINE BUSINESS REGISTRY
DATABANK

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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known and may be cited as
2 “The Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD) Act.”

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is a declared policy of the State to
4 maximize the capacity of Philippine business enterprises in the use of
5 information technology tools so that through electronic communications, they
6 may compete successfully in the global market. Moreover, through electronic
7 networking, trade and investments will be promoted and business partnerships
8 among Philippine entrepreneurs and their foreign counterparts may be
9 facilitated. For this purposes. It is necessary to create a mechanism for
10 generating and maintaining a high-integrity and sustainable national business
11 database.

12 SEC. 3. **Creation of Philippine Business Registry Databank.** – There
13 is hereby created a Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD) an agency
14 attached to the Department of Trade and Industry, which shall be the main
15 repository of information on business enterprises in the Philippines and which
16 shall provide business information and training services in support of business
17 development and capabilities and skills training, especially among medium,
18 small and micro enterprises.

1 **SEC. 4. *PBRD National Coordinating Board.*** – The PBRD shall be
2 governed by a national coordinating board headed by the Secretary of the
3 Department of Trade and Industry as Chairman, and the Department of Interior
4 and Local Governments as Vice-Chairman, and the following members:

5 a) representatives from the public sector as follows: the Securities and
6 Exchange Commission; The National Statistics Office; the President
7 of the League of Cities; and the President of the League of
8 Municipalities; and

9 b) representative from the private sector, as follows: the President of the
10 Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI); five (5) PCCI
11 Area Vice-Presidents; and three (3) representatives from other
12 business organizations with country-wide network or membership,
13 who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a term of
14 three (3) years.

15 The PCCI, through its President or its duly designated representative,
16 shall be the National Coordinator and shall recommend the appropriate plans,
17 programs and policies for approval by the board. The National Coordinator shall
18 also be responsible for the implementation of the same plans, programs and
19 policies.

20 **SEC. 5. *Local Government Units.*** – The information necessary for the
21 PBRD shall be generated and collected through the Business Permits issued by
22 cities and municipalities. The mayors of cities and municipalities shall assist the
23 local chambers of the PCCI in collecting the information necessary for the
24 PBRD.

25 **SEC. 6. *Local Chambers.*** – The PCCI through the local chambers shall
26 work with the mayor's office of each city and municipality, and the latter shall
27 cooperate with and extend support to the former, to establish and maintain a
28 Local Business Registry Databank (LBRD).

1 SEC. 7. **Appropriations.** – There is hereby appropriated initially for the
2 first year the sum of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) from any
3 funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the implementation of this
4 Act. The initial appropriations shall constitute a special fund to be expended
5 solely to finance the computer hardware and software requirements of the
6 PBRD.

7 An additional fee of P100 shall e collected from business permits to be
8 issued by the city or municipality and remitted to the PBRD National
9 Coordinating Board, in order to cover the expenses for systems maintenance,
10 promotions and consultancy and training for the advancement and growth of
11 micro, small and medium enterprises in the respective provinces

12 SEC. 8. **Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of trade and
13 Industry, in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Governments,
14 and the Philippine chamber of Commerce and Industry shall promulgate the
15 implementing rules and regulations for this Act within nine (90) days from its
16 effectivity.

17 SEC. 9. **Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation

19 Approved,