

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'16 JUL 28 AM 11:23

SENATE
S.B. No. 917

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE FILIPINO IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A list of of valid IDs in the Philippines enumerates 33 different forms of identification that are obtained from various government agencies. Often, a different form of identification will be required of a Filipino citizen depending on the service or government agency involved. The bureaucracy, red tape, and wasted time involved in procuring and releasing each different form of identification is economically inefficient for both the government and its citizens. This also hinders the timely delivery of public services to ordinary Filipinos who bear the opportunity cost of applying and waiting for their IDs.

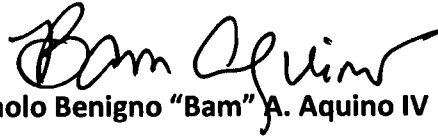
The proliferation of various forms of government identification obtained separately from different agencies also makes the government identification systems vulnerable to discrepancies and identity fraud.

If we are to continue our pursuit to provide high quality social services to all Filipinos in an effective and timely manner, we must take the necessary steps in unifying the identification system which will allow us to have better control and more efficient interaction between citizens and the government.

This bill seeks to establish a unified Filipino Identification System, to be implemented by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The PSA will manage the Filipino Citizen Registry - a master database of all registered Filipinos. Every Filipino citizen, including those born or residing overseas, will be assigned a unique Common Reference Number at birth and will only be required to renew this ID upon reaching the age of majority and again upon reaching the age of 60. This ID shall be used as the sole required identification in any government transaction and will be provided free of charge as part of the government's social responsibility.

In pursuing a national identification system, Filipinos will have a more efficient experience with government transactions and the government will benefit from a thorough database of information on Filipino citizens. This will also pave the way to more effective ways of delivering government services such as anti-poverty programs and other social services to improve the quality of life for all.

In view of the foregoing and to ascertain our commitment to the Filipino people, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bam Aquino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE FILIPINO IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Filipino
2 Identification System Act."

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy and Objectives.** – It is the policy of the State to
4 promote a just and dynamic social order that shall ensure the prosperity and
5 independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that
6 provide adequate social services, and improved quality of life for all. Towards this
7 end, a unified identification system shall be established to simplify the public and
8 private services transactions, to avert fraudulent transactions and
9 misinterpretations, and to curtail the perennial problem of bureaucratic red tape in
10 Philippine government agencies.

11 **SEC. 3. The Filipino Identification System.** - The Filipino Identification System
12 herein referred to as the "Filipino ID System", is hereby established and instituted as
13 an economic social tool towards the attainment of a progressive society through
14 efficient services for all Filipinos. The identification system shall provide official
15 identification of all citizens of the Republic of the Philippines through the issuance of
16 the National Identification Number and Filipino Identification Card. It shall gradually
17 concert and consolidate all existing government-initiated identification systems into
18 an integrated and efficient identification system.

19 **SEC. 4. Filipino Identification System Components.** – The Filipino ID System
20 shall be composed of the following key elements: (a) Common Reference Number
21 (CRN), which is a unique number assigned to the individual; (b) Filipino Identification
22 Card, which is the physical medium issued to the individual to convey essential
23 information about the person's identity; and (c) Filipino Citizen Registry, which is the
24 collection of records and information about individuals enrolled in the Filipino ID
25 System.

1 **SEC. 5. Common Reference Number (CRN).** – The CRN shall serve as the
2 National Identification Number of the person. It is a unique and permanent number
3 to be assigned to each Filipino by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). It shall be
4 used as a standard number for the individual across all agencies of the government.

5 The issuance of the CRN shall be done after checking for uniqueness of the
6 person’s identity through the person’s biometrics data. However, when biometrics
7 data is not yet applicable like in cases when the person is still a child, the generation
8 of CRN shall be based on the person’s birth certificate maintained by the PSA.

9 The PSA shall establish a direct linkage between the CRN and the person’s
10 birth record in the PSA’s civil registry database.

11 **SEC. 6. The Filipino Identification Card.** – Every Filipino, whether residing in
12 the Philippines or abroad, is mandated to secure a non-transferable Filipino
13 Identification Card (Filipino ID Card) bearing information on the owner’s identity. In
14 particular, the Filipino ID Card shall contain the owner’s imprinted photograph, full
15 name, present address, date and place of birth, sex, civil status, signature, CRN and
16 date of card issuance.

17 The Filipino ID Card shall be made of tamper-proof security material. It shall
18 also have the capability to store the biometrics data of the individual card owner.
19 Likewise, the card’s physical characteristics shall also consider the card owner’s
20 possible use of the ID card in conducting secure electronic transactions.

21 **SEC. 7. The Filipino Citizen Registry.** – The PSA as a repository of all data
22 shall create and maintain a Filipino Citizen Registry that will contain the registered
23 records and information of persons issued with a Filipino ID Card. The PSA as the
24 main issuing authority of the official Filipino ID Card shall institute the necessary
25 measures to safeguard the information provided in the Filipino ID Card. No such
26 information shall be released to any person, agency, office or instrumentality,
27 government or otherwise, except in cases stipulated in Section 11 of this Act.

28 The information of the Filipino Citizen Registry shall be categorized in a
29 manner that allows proper safeguards in data access, security and change
30 management.

31 **SEC. 8. Registration and Enrollment into the Filipino Identification System.** –
32 After the approval of this Act and upon full operation of the Filipino ID System, every
33 Filipino shall register and enroll into the Filipino ID System at the PSA-designated
34 Filipino ID Registration Center nearest the place of residence. Filipino ID Registration
35 Centers shall have the necessary facilities to capture both personal biometrics data
36 and such Centers may include other government agencies with existing equipment
37 such as the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security
38 System (SSS). Filipinos residing abroad shall register and be enrolled at the nearest
39 Philippine Embassy or Consular Office at the country of residence.

1 Every newborn Filipino shall be registered and enrolled into the Filipino ID
2 System at the Local Civil Registry Office at the place where the birth occurred or in
3 the case of Filipinos born abroad, at the Philippine Embassy or Consular Office. Every
4 Filipino reaching the age of majority at eighteen (18) years and those reaching the
5 age of sixty (60) years shall renew the Filipino ID Card at a PSA-designated Filipino ID
6 Registration Center nearest the place of residence or in the case of Filipinos residing
7 abroad, at the nearest Philippine Embassy or Consular Office at the country of
8 residence.

9 In all foregoing cases, the CRN shall be issued upon registration while the
10 Filipino ID Card shall be released within ninety (90) days from registration.

11 The initial application into the Filipino ID System and the issuance of the
12 Filipino ID Card shall be free of charge as part of the government's social service
13 responsibility. The renewal of the Filipino ID Card upon reaching eighteen (18) years
14 of age and sixty (60) years of age shall likewise be free of charge. A fee shall be paid
15 by the card owner in all other instances of card replacements that may be permitted
16 under the following circumstances:

- 17 a) Change in the name by virtue of court order or by application of
18 law, such as a married woman adopting the surname of the
19 husband;
- 20 b) Change in the stated address and/or civil status;
- 21 c) Material changes in the facial features due to age or medical
22 intervention; or
- 23 d) Other revisions that may be deemed necessary by the cardholder
24 or of the PSA.

25 **SEC. 10. Functional Uses of the Filipino ID Card.** – The Filipino ID Card shall be
26 presented and honored in transactions requiring the identity, status, birth and all
27 other personal circumstances such as but not limited to the following:

- 28 a) All transactions with all government agencies, instrumentalities,
29 local government units (LGUs), and government-owned or
30 controlled corporations (GOCCs);
- 31 b) Proof of identity and age, for admission in all learning institutions
32 as well as for employment purposes;
- 33 c) Availment of benefits or privileges afforded by law to senior
34 citizens;
- 35 d) Proof of identity and age for transactions in banking and financial
36 institutions; and
- 37 e) Such other purposes and uses, which the PSA may prescribe.

38 When the Filipino ID Card is presented to any government agency or for
39 identification purposes, no other additional identification card shall be required.
40 Except in instances allowed under the provisions of Republic Act No. 9225 or "The
41 Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003," the Filipino ID Card shall *motu*

1 *proprio* be rendered invalid and ineffective upon the loss of Filipino citizenship. Such
2 status of citizenship shall also be reflected in the corresponding record in the
3 Registry.

4 **SEC. 11. Protection Against Unlawful Disclosure of Information/Records. –**
5 No person may publish, disseminate or give third parties or entities including
6 government enforcement agencies any information provided by the data owner to
7 the Filipino ID System including the use thereof except in the following cases:

- 8 a) When the owner of the CRN or Filipino ID Card expressly authorizes
9 the disclosure of such information to a third person, entity or
10 agency;
11 b) In the event of the accident, disaster or fortuitous events, when
12 information on medical history of the holder such as the blood type
13 or special medical needs or other relevant information are needed
14 by medical and/or health workers;
15 c) In the interest of public health or safety; and
16 d) Upon order of any competent Court.

17 Any information obtained as a result of unlawful disclosure under this Act
18 shall be inadmissible as evidence in any criminal proceedings against the owner of
19 the CRN or the Filipino ID Card.

20 The PSA, in pursuance of its mandated statistical function under Republic Act
21 No. 10625, or “The Philippine Statistical Act of 2013”, may generate and release
22 aggregated information from the Filipino Citizen Registry in the form of summaries
23 and statistical tables in which no reference to an individual shall appear and that no
24 specific person can be readily identified in the released information.

25 The PSA may also use the list of CRNs to obtain administrative data being
26 maintained by other agencies for additional statistical compilation. Administrative
27 data granted to PSA through the CRNs shall not be made part of the Registry nor the
28 Filipino ID System. Such data, which shall also be covered by confidentiality provision
29 under Republic Act No. 10625, shall purely be for the purpose of generating
30 statistical summaries without reference or identification of any specific individual.

31 The PSA as repository and custodian of all data covered in the Filipino ID
32 System shall institute necessary measures to safeguard the information gathered
33 through the Filipino ID System.

34 **SEC. 12. Roles and Functions of the Philippine Statistics Authority and the**
35 **Department of Foreign Affairs through the Philippine Embassies and Consular**
36 **Offices. -** The PSA, as the implementing agency, shall be responsible for the overall
37 planning, management and administration of the Filipino ID System. The
38 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in coordination with the PSA, shall handle the
39 registration and enrollment into the System of Filipinos residing abroad and such
40 responsibility also includes the release of the CRN and/or Filipino ID Cards. The PSA

1 shall create an additional organizational unit on Citizen ID Services to handle its
2 additional role under this Act, subject to the review of the Department of Budget
3 and Management. Likewise, the DFA shall create a special unit for the purpose of
4 handling its added responsibility.

5 The PSA is directed to draw up a program for the conduct of mobile
6 registration in collaboration with other government entities to ensure the
7 registration and enrollment of all Filipinos into the Filipino ID System including the
8 indigenous people and those in the remote communities.

9 **SEC. 13. Feature Involving the Private Sector and the Local Government**
10 **Units.** – The PSA shall encourage the cooperation of the private sector and the local
11 government units in granting additional benefits and privileges to the Filipino ID
12 cardholders.

13 **SEC. 14. Feature Involving the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and**
14 **the Local Government Units.** – The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
15 (PHILHEALTH) shall enroll non-member Filipino ID cardholders into the National
16 Health Insurance Program in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

17 **SEC. 15. Feature Involving the Department of Information and**
18 **Communications Technology.** – The PSA and the Department of Information and
19 Communications Technology (DICT) shall grant increased internet connection speed
20 and other information and communication technology (ICT) benefits and privileges
21 to the Filipino ID cardholders under the National Connectivity and Broadband
22 Development Plan, Free Public Wi-Fi Connectivity in Public Places and any similar
23 plan or program of the DICT.

24 **SEC. 16. Failure to Present a Filipino ID Card.** – The failure of any person to
25 present a Filipino ID Card when transacting business with the government or with
26 private entities requiring the use and presentation of the Filipino ID Card shall not be
27 used as grounds to deny or limit the basic government and private services so long
28 as such transaction is qualified under existing laws.

29 **SEC. 17. Funding.** – The initial amount necessary for the implementation of
30 this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriation of the PSA
31 and DFA as the implementing agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary
32 for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
33 Appropriations Act. Revenues that may be generated from the issuance of the
34 Filipino ID Cards or related services shall be allocated as part of the appropriations
35 for the continued management and operations of the Filipino ID System.

36 Funding requirements to provide increased internet connection speed and
37 other ICT benefits shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriation of
38 the DICT, and shall be included in the agency's annual general appropriation
39 thereafter.

1 Funding requirements to ensure enrollment of non-member Filipino ID
2 cardholders to the National Health Insurance Program shall be sourced from the
3 National Health Insurance Fund of PHILHEALTH.

4 **SEC. 18. Penal Provisions.** – Any person who knowingly uses false
5 information in enrolling into the System or applying the issuance of a Filipino ID Card
6 or procures a card through fraud and who utilizes the card in an unlawful manner,
7 shall be punished with a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but
8 not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) or an imprisonment of
9 not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years, or both at the
10 discretion of the court.

11 Any person who shall willfully and unjustifiably refuse to accept,
12 acknowledge or recognize the Filipino ID card as the only official identification of the
13 owner thereof shall also be punished with the same penalties or imprisonment
14 stated in the preceding paragraph.

15 Any public official or employee who connives with the offender in
16 committing the acts mentioned in the last two (2) preceding paragraphs or, on his
17 own, causes the issuance of a CRN or an authorized Filipino ID card or approves the
18 application for the same, despite the knowledge of the existence of fraud or false
19 information, shall suffer the corresponding penalties imposed in the last two (2)
20 preceding paragraphs and shall suffer the penalty of perpetual disqualification from
21 government service.

22 The penalties imposed in this Section shall be in addition to those imposed
23 on acts punishable by existing penal and other laws including those acts of omission.

24 **SEC. 19. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from
25 effectivity of this Act, the PSA and DFA, in coordination with the National Economic
26 and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Interior and Local Government
27 (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development
28 (DSWD), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), DICT, Commission on
29 Elections (COMELEC), GSIS, SSS, PHILHEALTH, and other relevant government
30 agencies shall promulgate rules and regulations and exchange existing technologies
31 and best practices on the issuance of identification cards to effectively implement
32 the provisions of this Act.

33 **SEC. 20. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision herein be declared
34 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this
35 Act.

36 **SEC. 21. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
37 or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
38 repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 22. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
3 Philippines.

4 *Approved,*