

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



'17 JUL 18 P 6:04

SENATE
S.B. No. 1500

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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

Explanatory Note

The Philippines remains as one of only nine countries in the world without a national identification (ID) system.¹ As the Philippines continues to grow rapidly, the time is ripe for us to establish an efficient and unified identification system to accelerate the development process and ensure citizens' access to the benefits brought by this growth.

Identification systems enable the government to gain a comprehensive grasp on the nation's demography, identify the needs of the people, and accurately target and deliver services to their intended beneficiaries without leakages.² Further, a national ID system cuts the red tape that has long haunted our bureaucracy and makes it easier for citizens to transact with their government. It facilitates the public's easy access to social services such as healthcare and education, as well as employment opportunities.³ Likewise, an ID system streamlines identity authentication, thus minimizing fraud in transactions both in the public and private sectors. Finally, a single integrated identification system strengthens our capability to ensure the safety and security of our people.

This bill seeks to establish a Filipino Identification System that aims for universal coverage of all Filipinos, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad. This unified and comprehensive database aims to address the delays and inefficiencies in transactions with the government, while assuring the people's right to privacy and the security of the information contained therein.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

¹ <http://www.rappler.com/nation/169434-house-committee-approves-national-id-system-bill>

² *Identity for Development in Asia and the Pacific*. (2016). Asian Development Bank.

³ *Id.*

'17 JUL 18 P6:05

SENATE
S.B. No. 1500

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Filipino Identification System Act.”

2 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic
3 social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the
4 people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services and an improved
5 quality of life for all. A unified national identification system shall be established to streamline
6 public and private transactions and eliminate bureaucratic red tape in the delivery of basic
7 government services.

8 **SEC. 3. Filipino Identification System.** – The Filipino Identification System (“System”) is
9 hereby established to provide official identification of all citizens of the Philippines through
10 the issuance of a national identification number and Filipino Identification Card. The System
11 shall consolidate all existing government-initiated identification systems into a unified,
12 integrated and efficient identification system.

13 **SEC. 4. Components of the Filipino Identification System.** – The System shall be
14 comprised of the following components:

- 15 (a) Common Reference Number – a unique permanent number assigned by the
16 Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) to every Filipino based on his/her PSA-
17 authenticated certificate of live birth;
- 18 (b) Filipino Citizen Registry – the collection of records and information of persons
19 enrolled in the System; and
- 20 (c) Filipino Identification (ID) Card – the physical medium issued to convey
21 essential information about the person’s identity.

22 **SEC. 5. Common Reference Number.** – The Common Reference Number (CRN) shall
23 serve as the national identification number of every Filipino. The PSA shall establish and

1 maintain a program that directly links the CRN to the corresponding person's birth record in
2 the existing civil registry database of the PSA.

3 **SEC. 6. Filipino Citizen Registry.** – The PSA shall establish and maintain a Citizen
4 Registry (“Registry”) which is a collection of all records and information on persons enrolled
5 into the System, such as the CRN, full name, date and place of birth, sex, civil status, address,
6 signature, biometrics data, and membership numbers issued by other government agencies,
7 including the Tax Identification Number (TIN) issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR),
8 membership numbers issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social
9 Security System (SSS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth), and Home
10 Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG), and Voter’s Identification Number issued by the
11 Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

12 The PSA, as the main issuing authority of the Filipino ID Card, shall institute the
13 necessary measures to safeguard the confidentiality of information contained in the Registry.
14 No such information shall be released to any person, agency, office or instrumentality,
15 government or otherwise, except in cases enumerated in Section 11 of this Act.

16 **SEC. 7. Enrollment into the Filipino Identification System.** – After approval of this Act
17 and upon full operation of the Filipino Identification System, every Filipino, whether residing
18 in the Philippines or abroad, is mandated to enroll into the System. Resident citizens shall
19 enroll into the System at PSA-designated Registration Centers, which shall have the necessary
20 facilities to capture the data required to be contained in the Registry. Filipinos residing abroad
21 shall enroll at the appropriate Philippine Embassy or Consular Office at the country of
22 residence.

23 Every newborn Filipino shall be enrolled into the System at the Local Civil Registry Office
24 (LCRO) of the place of birth, or in the case of Filipinos born abroad, at the appropriate
25 Philippine Embassy or Consular Office. The PSA, through the LCRO or the Philippine Embassy
26 or Consular Office abroad, is mandated to issue a Filipino ID card within ninety (90) days from
27 the registration of live birth.

28 The parents or legal guardian of a minor, incompetent, or person with disability shall be
29 responsible for the application and safekeeping of the issued Filipino ID card.

30 Upon reaching eighteen (18) years of age, every Filipino shall renew the Filipino ID Card
31 at PSA-designated Registration Centers, or in the case of Filipinos residing abroad, at the
32 appropriate Philippine Embassy or Consular Office at the country of residence.

33 Upon reaching sixty (60) years of age, every Filipino shall renew his/her Filipino ID Card
34 to reflect his/her senior citizen status.

35 **SEC. 8. Filipino Identification (ID) Card.** – Every Filipino, whether residing in the
36 Philippines or abroad, is mandated to secure a non-transferrable Filipino Identification Card

1 bearing information on the owner's identity, such as the CRN, full name, date and place of
2 birth, sex, civil status, signature, date of card issuance, and photograph.

3 The issuance of the first Filipino ID Card and its mandatory renewal upon reaching the
4 ages of eighteen (18) and sixty (60) years shall be free of charge. In all other instances, a fee
5 shall be imposed on the replacement of lost or destroyed ID cards.

6 The Filipino ID Card shall be made of tamper-proof security material, with the capability
7 of storing biometrics data and the possibility of facilitating secure electronic transactions such
8 as access to identity verification, payment, and access to health, business, retail, and other
9 social services.

10 **SEC. 9. Functional Uses of the Filipino ID Card.** – The Filipino ID Card, when presented,
11 shall be honored in transactions requiring information on such person's identity, such as the
12 following:

13 (a) All transactions with the government, including:

14 (1) Application for passport and driver's license;

15 (2) Filing of applications for services and benefits offered by the GSIS, SSS, Philhealth
16 and Pag-IBIG;

17 (3) Application for clearances from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI),
18 courts, prosecutors and the police;

19 (b) Identification for voting purposes;

20 (c) Admission to all learning institutions, as well as for employment purposes;

21 (d) Transactions in banking and financial institutions;

22 (e) Availment of benefits or privileges afforded by law to senior citizens, persons with
23 disability, and other marginalized sectors.

24 When the Filipino ID Card is presented to any government agency or for identification
25 purposes, no other additional identification card shall be required.

26 Except in instances allowed under the provisions of Republic Act No. 9225 or the
27 Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003, the Filipino ID Card shall *motu proprio* be
28 rendered invalid and ineffective upon the loss of status as a citizen of the Philippines. Such
29 change in citizenship shall be reflected in the person's record in the Registry.

30 **SEC. 10. Change in Material Information.** – Any person who intends to effect changes in
31 the material information previously supplied to and currently maintained in the System shall
32 have the duty to inform the Local Civil Registry Office, Embassy or Consular Office, or to any
33 PSA-designated reporting facility, of such changes within the period prescribed by the
34 implementing agency. These material changes include:

35 (a) Change in the name by virtue of court order or by application of law, such as a
36 married woman adopting the surname of the husband;

37 (b) Change in residence and/or civil status;

- 1 (c) Material changes in facial features due to age or medical intervention; or
2 (d) Other revisions that may be deemed necessary by the cardholder or the PSA.

3 **SEC. 11. *Protection Against Unlawful Disclosure of Information/Records.*** – No person
4 may publish, disseminate, disclose or give to third persons or entities, including government
5 agencies, any information contained in the Registry, except in the following cases:

- 6 (a) When the owner of the CRN or Filipino ID Card expressly authorizes the
7 disclosure of such information to a third person, entity or agency;
8 (b) Upon order of any competent court; and
9 (c) Upon the request of government agencies authorized to issue membership
10 numbers, such as the GSIS, SSS, Philhealth, Pag-IBIG and the COMELEC, for
11 updates information on their respective members, which data are maintained in
12 the Registry.

13 Any information obtained in violation of this provision shall be inadmissible as evidence
14 in any administrative, civil or criminal proceeding against the owner.

15 The PSA may, in pursuance of its mandate under Republic Act No. 10625 or The
16 Philippine Statistical Act of 2013, may generate and release aggregated information from the
17 Citizen Registry in the form of summaries and statistical tables in which no reference to an
18 individual shall appear and that no specific person can be readily identified in such aggregated
19 information.

20 **SEC. 12. *Roles and Functions of the Philippine Statistics Authority and the***
21 ***Department of Foreign Affairs through the Philippine Embassies and Consular Offices.*** -
22 The PSA, as the primary implementing agency, shall be responsible for the overall planning,
23 management and administration of the System. In the case of citizens of the Philippines
24 residing abroad, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), through the Philippine Embassies
25 and Consular Offices shall be responsible for enrollment into the System, the release of the
26 CRN, and issuance of the Filipino ID Cards. The DFA shall, as soon as practicable, transmit
27 acquired information to the PSA for the consolidation in the Registry.

28 The PSA is directed to conduct mobile registration in collaboration with other
29 government entities to attain universal enrollment of all Filipinos into the System, including
30 indigenous Filipinos, those in remote communities and those who are sick and unable to
31 physically appear before the Local Civil Registry Office, Embassy or Consular Office.

32 The PSA and the DFA shall create their respective Citizen ID Services offices for the
33 proper discharge of their functions under this Act, subject to the review of the Department of
34 Budget and Management.

35 **SEC. 13. *Penal Provisions.*** – Imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more
36 than two (2) years, or a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more

1 than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, shall
2 be imposed on:

- 3 (a) Any person who knowingly uses false information in enrolling into the System
4 or applying for the issuance of a Filipino ID Card;
- 5 (b) Any person who, not falling under the instances authorized under this Act,
6 discloses any data or information in the System;
- 7 (c) Any person who, without any authority under this Act, accesses, tampers or
8 changes any data or information in the System; and
- 9 (d) Any person who willfully and unjustifiably refuses to accept, acknowledge or
10 recognize the Filipino ID Card as the only official identification of the owner.

11 Any public official or employee who commits the foregoing acts shall, in addition to the
12 corresponding penalties imposed, suffer the penalty of perpetual disqualification from public
13 office.

14 **SEC. 14. *Features Involving the Private Sector, Local Government Units, and Other***
15 ***Government Instrumentalities.*** – The PSA shall encourage the cooperation of the private
16 sector, local government units, and other government instrumentalities in granting additional
17 benefits and privileges to Filipino ID cardholders.

18 **SEC. 15. *Failure to Present Filipino ID Card.*** – Failure of any person to present a
19 Filipino ID Card when transacting business with the government or private entities shall not
20 be a ground for the denial of government and private services.

21 **SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
22 effectivity of this Act, the PSA and the DFA, in coordination with the National Economic and
23 Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG),
24 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Science and
25 Technology (DOST), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT),
26 COMELEC, GSIS, SSS, Philhealth, Pag-IBIG and other relevant government agencies shall
27 promulgate rules and regulations and exchange existing technologies and best practices on the
28 establishment of the System to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

29 **SEC. 17. *Transitory Provision.*** – Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act,
30 all Filipinos, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, must have enrolled into the System
31 and obtained a Filipino ID Card.

32 **SEC. 18. *Funding.*** – The initial amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall
33 be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PSA and DFA. Thereafter, such
34 sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the
35 annual General Appropriations Act. Revenues that may be generated from the issuance of the
36 Filipino ID Cards or related services shall be allocated as part of the appropriations for the
37 continued management and operations of the System.

1 **SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision, section or part of this Act shall be
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any
3 other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

4 **SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations which are
5 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6 **SEC. 21. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its
7 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,