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SENATE

S. B. No. 169

BY: *J. Osmeña*

Introduced by Senator Sergio 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 enterprises 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

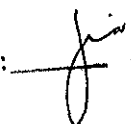
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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S. B. No. 169

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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.*** – *Title.* - This Act shall be known and may be
2 cited as "The Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD) Act."

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is a declared policy of the State
4 to 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 **SECTION 3. *Creation of Philippine Business Registry Databank.*** –
13 There is hereby created a Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD) an
14 agency attached to the Department of Trade and Industry, which shall be the
15 main repository of information on business enterprises in the Philippines and
16 which shall provide business information and training services in support of

1 business development and capabilities and skills training, especially among
2 medium, small and micro enterprises.

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

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

10 b) representative from the private sector, as follows: the President of the
11 Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI); five (5) PCCI Area
12 Vice-Presidents; and three (3) representatives from other business
13 organizations with country-wide network or membership, who shall be
14 appointed by the President of the Philippines for a term of 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 **SECTION 5. *Local Government Units.*** - The information necessary for
21 the PBRD shall be generated and collected through the Business Permits
22 issued by cities and municipalities. The mayors of cities and municipalities shall
23 assist the local chambers of the PCCI in collecting the information necessary for
24 the PBRD.

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

1 **SECTION 7. Appropriations.** - There is hereby appropriated initially for
2 the first year the sum of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) from
3 any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the implementation of
4 this 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 be 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 **SECTION 8. Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Trade and
13 Industry, in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government,
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 **SECTION 9. Effectivity.** This Act shall take *effect* fifteen (15) days after
18 its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

19 Approved,