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*Second Regular Session*



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
S. B. No. **2738**

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Introduced by SENATOR FRANKLIN M. DRILON

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### **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FILIPINO IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

Ingrained in our Constitution is the pursuit of the State to free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life for all. Over the years, the government has pursued such constitutional fiat through the delivery of benefits and services rooted on the principle of social justice. Unfortunately, bureaucratic red tape has stood as the perennial bottleneck to the full achievement of the enshrined policy.

Drawing off the immense advances in information technology, this measure seeks to establish a unified system to accurately and swiftly identify individuals seeking basic services from the government. Such innovation endeavors to grant wider access to and ensure efficient delivery of public services by cutting red tape and preventing fraudulent transactions in government.

As an immediate benefit of this measure's passage, unwarranted delays in government transactions will be averted as the Filipino ID card shall be the only proof of identity government agencies and institutions will require.

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

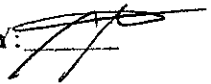
  
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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FILIPINO IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

*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  
2 Act."

3        **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to promote a  
4 just and dynamic social order that shall ensure the prosperity and independence of the  
5 nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social  
6 services, and improved quality life for all. To expediently and swiftly provide said social  
7 services, there exists a need to establish a unified system to properly and efficiently identify  
8 persons seeking such basic services in order to prevent fraudulent transactions and  
9 misrepresentations, and to curb the perennial problem of red tape in the government  
10 bureaucracy.

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

19        **SECTION 4. Components of the Filipino Identification System.** -The  
20 System shall be comprised of the following key elements: (a) Common Reference Number,

1 which is a unique number assigned to the individual; (b) Filipino Identification Card,  
2 which is the physical medium issued to the individual to convey essential information  
3 about the person's identity; and (c) Filipino Citizen Registry, which is the collection of  
4 records and information about individuals enrolled in the System.

5         **SECTION 5. *Common Reference Number.*** – The Common Reference Number  
6 (CRN) shall serve as the national identification number of the person. It is a unique and  
7 permanent number to be assigned to each Filipino by the Philippine Statistics Authority  
8 (PSA). It shall be used as a standard number for the individual across all agencies of the  
9 government.

10         The issuance of the CRN shall be done after checking for uniqueness of the person's  
11 identity through his/her biometrics data. However, when biometrics data is not yet  
12 applicable like in cases when the person is still a child, the generation of CRN shall be  
13 based on the person's birth certificate maintained by the PSA.

14         The PSA shall establish a direct linkage between the CRN and the person's birth  
15 record in the PSA's civil registry database.

16         **SECTION 6. *The Filipino Identification Card.*** – Every Filipino, whether  
17 residing in the Philippines or abroad, is mandated to have a non-transferrable Filipino  
18 Identification Card (Filipino ID card) bearing information on his/her identity. In  
19 particular, the Filipino ID card shall contain the owner's imprinted photograph, full name,  
20 present address, date and place of birth, sex, civil status, signature, CRN and date of card  
21 issuance.

22         The Filipino ID card shall be made of tamper-proof security material. It shall also  
23 have the capability to store the biometric data of the individual card owner. Likewise, the  
24 card's physical characteristics shall also consider the card owner's possible use of the ID  
25 card in conducting secure electronic transactions.

26         **SECTION 7. *The Filipino Citizen Registry.*** – The PSA as repository of all data  
27 shall create and maintain a Filipino Citizen Registry that will contain the registered records  
28 and information of persons issued with Filipino ID card. The PSA as the main issuing  
29 authority of the official Filipino ID card shall institute the necessary measures to safeguard  
30 the information provided in the Filipino ID card. No such information shall be released to

1 any person, agency, office or instrumentality, government or otherwise, except in cases  
2 stipulated in Section 11 of this Act.

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

5 **SECTION 8. Registration and Enrollment into the Filipino**  
6 **Identification System.** – After the approval of this Act and upon full operation of the  
7 System, every Filipino shall register and enroll into the System at the PSA-designated  
8 Filipino ID Registration Center nearest the place of residence. Filipino ID Registration  
9 Centers shall have the necessary facilities to capture both personal and biometrics data and  
10 such Centers may include other government agencies with existing equipment, such as the  
11 Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS).  
12 Filipinos residing abroad shall register and be enrolled at the nearest Philippine Embassy  
13 or Consular Office at the country of residence.

14 Every newborn Filipino shall be registered and enrolled into the System at the Local  
15 Civil Registry Office at the place where the birth occurred or, in the case of Filipinos born  
16 abroad, at the Philippine Embassy or Consular Office. Every Filipino reaching the age of  
17 majority at eighteen (18) years and those reaching the senior age of sixty (60) shall renew  
18 his/her Filipino ID card at a PSA-designated Filipino ID Registration Center nearest the  
19 place of residence or, in the case of Filipinos residing abroad, at the nearest Philippine  
20 Embassy or Consular Office at the country of residence.

21 In all foregoing cases, the CRN shall be issued upon registration while the Filipino  
22 ID card shall be released within one hundred twenty (120) days from registration.

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

- 28 a) For lost or destroyed ID cards; or  
29 b) Changes in any of the material information previously supplied and currently  
30 maintained in the System, as provided for in Section 9.

1           The parents or the legal guardian of the minor, incompetent or disabled person shall  
2 be responsible for the safekeeping of the Filipino ID card.

3           **SECTION 9. *Change in Material Information.*** – Any person who intends to  
4 effect changes in the material information previously supplied and currently maintained in  
5 the System shall have the duty to accordingly inform the Local Civil Registry Office,  
6 Embassy, or Consular Office nearest the place of residence, or to any PSA-designated  
7 reporting facility, of such changes within the period prescribed by the implementing  
8 agency. These material changes are:

- 9           a)     Change in the name by virtue of court order or by application of law,  
10                such as a married woman adopting the surname of the husband;
- 11           b)     Change in the stated address and/or civil status; or
- 12           c)     Material changes in the facial features due to age or medical  
13                intervention.

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

- 17           a)     All transactions with the government;
- 18           b)     Application for passport and driver's license;
- 19           c)     Filing applications for any services and benefits offered by the GSIS,  
20                SSS, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) and Home  
21                Development Mutual Fund (HDMF);
- 22           d)     Proof of identity and age, for admission in all learning institutions as  
23                well as for employment purposes;
- 24           e)     Availment of benefits or privileges afforded by law to senior citizens;
- 25           f)     Proof of identity and age for transactions in banking and financial  
26                institutions;
- 27           g)     Application for clearances from the National Bureau of Investigation  
28                (NBI), courts, prosecutors and the police;

1 h) Voting identification purposes; and

2 i) Such other purposes and uses which the PSA may prescribe.

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

5 Except in instances allowed under the provisions of Republic Act No. 9225 or “The  
6 Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003”, the Filipino ID card shall *motu*  
7 *proprio* be rendered invalid and ineffective upon the loss of Filipino citizenship. Such status  
8 of citizenship shall also be reflected in the corresponding record in the Registry.

9 **SECTION 11. *Protection Against Unlawful Disclosure Of***  
10 ***Information/Records.*** – No person may publish, disseminate or give to third parties or  
11 entities including government enforcement agencies any information provided by the data  
12 owner to the System including the use thereof except in the following cases:

13 a) When the owner of the CRN or Filipino ID card expressly authorizes  
14 the disclosure of such information to a third person, entity or agency;

15 b) In the event of accident, disaster or fortuitous events, when  
16 information on medical history of the holder such as the blood type or  
17 special medical needs or other relevant information are needed by  
18 medical and/ health workers;

19 c) In the interest of public health or safety; and

20 d) Upon order of any competent Court.

21 Any information obtained as a result of unlawful disclosure under this Act shall be  
22 inadmissible as evidence in any criminal proceedings against the owner of the CRN or the  
23 Filipino ID card.

24 The PSA, in pursuance of its mandated statistical function under Republic Act No.  
25 10625 or “The Philippine Statistical Act of 2013”, may generate and release aggregated  
26 information from the Filipino Citizen Registry in the form of summaries and statistical  
27 tables in which no reference to an individual shall appear and that no specific person can  
28 be readily identified in the released information.

1 The PSA may also use the list of CRNs to obtain administrative data being  
2 maintained by other agencies for additional statistical compilation. Administrative data  
3 granted to PSA through the CRNs shall not be made part of the Registry nor the System.  
4 Such data, which shall also be covered by confidentiality provisions under RA 10625, shall  
5 purely be for the purpose of generating statistical summaries without reference or  
6 identification of any specific individual.

7 The PSA as repository and custodian of all data covered in the System shall institute  
8 the necessary measures to safeguard the information gathered through the System.

9 **SECTION 12. Roles and Functions of the Philippine Statistics Authority**  
10 **and the Department of Foreign Affairs through the Philippine Embassies and**  
11 **Consular Offices.** – The PSA, as the implementing agency, shall be responsible for  
12 overall planning, management and administration of the System. The Department of  
13 Foreign Affairs (DFA), in coordination with the PSA, shall handle the registration and  
14 enrolment into the System of Filipinos residing abroad and such responsibility also  
15 includes the release of the CRN and/or Filipino ID cards. The PSA shall create an  
16 additional organizational unit on Citizen ID Services to handle its new extra role under this  
17 Act, subject to the review of the Department of Budget and Management. Likewise, the  
18 DFA shall create a special unit for the purpose of handling its added responsibility.

19 The PSA is directed to draw up a program for the conduct of mobile registration in  
20 collaboration with other government entities to ensure registration and enrollment of all  
21 Filipinos into the System including the indigenous people and those in the remote  
22 communities.

23 **SECTION 13. Features involving the Private Sector and the Local**  
24 **Government Units.** - The PSA shall encourage the cooperation of the private sector and  
25 the local government units in granting additional benefits and privileges to the Filipino ID  
26 cardholders.

27 **SECTION 14. Penal Provisions.** – Any person who knowingly uses false  
28 information in enrolling into the System or applying for the issuance of a Filipino ID card  
29 or procures a card through fraud and who utilizes the card in an unlawful manner, shall be  
30 punished with a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more  
31 than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than  
32 six (6) months but not more than two (2) years, or both at the discretion of court.

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

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

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

13 **SECTION 15. *Failure to Present Filipino ID Card.*** – Failure of any person to  
14 present Filipino ID card when transacting business with the government or with private  
15 entities requiring the use and presentation of the Filipino ID card shall not be ground to  
16 deny or limit the basic government and private services as long as such transaction is  
17 qualified under existing laws.

18 **SECTION 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90)  
19 days from effectivity of this Act, the PSA and DFA, in coordination with National Economic  
20 and Development Authority, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department  
21 of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Science and Technology, Commission  
22 on Elections, GSIS, SSS, Philhealth, and the Bureau of Immigration, shall promulgate rules  
23 and regulations and exchange existing technologies and best practices on the issuance of  
24 identification cards to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

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



1           **SECTION 18. *Separability Clause.***- If any provision, section or part of this act  
2 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or  
3 impair any other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

4           **SECTION 19. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
5 regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
6 modified accordingly.

7           **SECTION 20. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days  
8 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9           *Approved,*

10