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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

Office of the Secretary
Senate of the Philippines

SENATE

'19 JUL 16 A8:54

S. No. 503



Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE USE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FOR SECURITY,
SAFETY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution establishes that public office is a public trust. Therefore, it is the duty of the State to ensure that the citizens of the country trust the offices and the officials working in the government. It is also the duty of the State to ensure that the offices and the officials are accountable to the Filipino people.

The recording of day-to-day transactions of government offices especially in the offices rendering frontline services will help deter government officials in conducting corrupt practices such as asking for "lagay" or bribe and ensure that officials are accountable to the citizens. This proposed measure mandates installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), a visible or covert video system intended for only a limited number of viewers, in all government offices in the country.

Through the passage of this bill, the government will not only deter corruption but also restore the trust of the Filipino people in government offices and to the public officers who serve them.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this measure is sought.


PIA S. CAYETANO

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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 as the "Surveillance Camera
2 for Government Establishments Act."

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Under Article XI, Section 2, of the 1987
4 Philippine Constitution, public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees
5 must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost
6 responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and
7 lead modest lives.

8 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- 9 (a) *Surveillance Camera* refers to an electronic device used for recording
10 images or moving visual images of a particular area, premises, or place,
11 such as but not limited to closed circuit televisions (CCTVs);
12 (b) *Video Feed* refers to the live input of a surveillance camera;
13 (c) *Video Record or Video Recording* refers to the electronic record of the
14 images or moving visual images captured by a surveillance camera;
15 (d) *Government Office* refers to any building or structure that is owned,
16 operated or used by the Republic of the Philippines as a public office;
17 (e) *Frontline Service* refers to the process or transaction between clients and
18 government offices or agencies involving applications for any privilege,
19 right, permit, reward, license, concession, or for any modification,
20 renewal or extension of the enumerated applications and/or requests

1 which are acted upon in the ordinary course of business of the agency or
2 office concerned.

3 *Sec. 4. Duties of Government Offices.* – It shall be the duty of all government
4 offices to:

- 5 (a) Install and maintain in good working condition surveillance cameras with
6 audio within the premises of the government offices;
- 7 (b) Install and maintain in good working condition surveillance cameras
8 inside government institutions especially in offices and areas offering
9 frontline services, including but not limited to, immigration counters,
10 land transportation offices, customs, internal revenue offices, permits
11 offices, land transportation offices, and the like, to ensure quality and
12 impartial service and to prevent any form of corruption;
- 13 (c) Ensure that surveillance cameras are switched on and recording for
14 twenty-four (24) hours per day and for seven (7) days per week;
- 15 (d) Ensure that video feeds are being monitored by security employees or
16 personnel specifically tasked to do so;
- 17 (e) Keep a deposit of video recordings for a period of not less than six (6)
18 months from the date of recording; and
- 19 (f) In the instances covered by Section 8 of this Act, to make video
20 recordings available upon request and to allow copies thereof to be
21 made.

22 *Sec. 5. Notice of Surveillance.* – The installation of surveillance cameras in a
23 government office shall be made known to the general public through a written
24 notice displayed in the entrance of the establishment.

25 *Sec. 6. Prohibited Surveillance.* – The installation of surveillance cameras in
26 any restroom, shower room, changing room, and other such areas where there is
27 reasonable expectation of privacy shall be prohibited.

28 *Sec. 7. Confidentiality and Non-disclosure of Recordings.* – The government
29 offices shall maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the video feeds and records
30 obtained in accordance with this Act. The concerned government office shall prohibit
31 any use, viewing, disclosure or publication of said video recordings that are not
32 within the mandate of this Act.

1 Sec. 8. *Allowed Use and Disclosure.* – The use, reproduction, or disclosure of
2 video records obtained in accordance with this Act shall only be allowed by
3 competent authority determined by the head of the Department concerned in the
4 following instances:

5 (a) Use, reproduction, or disclosure to a member or officer of a law
6 enforcement agency in connection with and limited to the investigation
7 or prosecution of an offense punishable by law or regulation;

8 (b) Use, reproduction, or disclosure in connection with any pending criminal,
9 civil or criminal proceeding;

10 (c) Use or disclosure that may be necessary to avoid an imminent threat to
11 persons or property; or

12 (d) Use or disclosure that may be necessary for persons to determine
13 whether or not an offense was committed against their person or
14 property, to ascertain the identity of a criminal perpetrator, and to
15 determine the manner by which an offense was committed.

16 Sec. 9. *Implementing Agency.* – The departments of the national government
17 and the local government units shall ensure the effective implementation and
18 enforcement of this Act.

19 Sec. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amounts necessary for the effective
20 implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget allocation of each
21 department and local government unit in the General Appropriations Act.

22 Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act shall be
23 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
24 shall remain in full force and effect.

25 Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances,
26 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
27 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

28 Sec. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
29 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
30 circulation.

Approved,