


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

7 JUL -4 A8:58

SENATE
S.B. No. 942

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD) which shall assist in the facilitation of business transactions among local and foreign entrepreneurs.

In the age of Globalization, business transactions cross geographical borders in a short period of time. Vital and comprehensive information should be available within a matter of seconds to ensure the success of the dealings. The less challenges the investors and entrepreneurs face, the higher the success rate which will translate to the development of the country's economy.

The local government of Quezon City recognizes the need to create a business comprehensive database in order to facilitate the business transactions in the city. The Quezon City Business Registry contains important information like business demographics and premium brands. Such program lives up to the city's tags as the "ICT Capital of the Philippines" and "Most Business Friendly City." The city of Naga enacted Ordinance No. 2005-0008 on January 24, 2005 which mandated the creation of the Naga City Business Registry Databank. Clearly then, there is a need to create a comprehensive national business database to collate, merge and make available on a national level such data.

The measure provides for the creation of the Philippine Business Registry Databank which shall serve as the main repository of business data in the country. It shall provide business information and other services through electronic networking. The speedy access to important information shall facilitate business transactions and partnerships. In order to coordinate the activities of the PBRD, a national coordinating board shall be established. Representatives from various departments and agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) shall serve as members of the board. The President of the Philippines shall appoint three representatives from business organizations to the board for a term of three years.

The information to be utilized by the PBRD shall come from the consolidated business permits issued by the cities, municipalities and the ones gathered by the SEC and DTI. For its first year, the amount of ten million pesos shall be appropriated to ensure its proper establishment and implementation.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS REGISTRY DATABANK, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This act shall be known as " The Philippine Business Registry Databank Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. Creation of Philippine Business Registry Databank. - There is hereby created a Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD), which shall be the main repository of information on business enterprises in the Philippines. It shall provide business information and training support services, promote trade and investments through electronic networking, as well as facilitate business partnerships among local entrepreneurs and their foreign counterparts.

SEC. 3. PBRD National Coordinating Board. - For the purpose of coordinating the activities of the PBRD, a national coordinating board shall be established, to be composed of the representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the National Statistics Office; the President of the League of Cities; the President of the League of Municipalities; the President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), five (5) PCCI area Vice Presidents; and three (3) representatives from other business organizations with countrywide network or membership, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a term of three (3) years.

The PCCI, through its President or its duly designated Representative, shall be the National Coordinator and shall recommend to the board the appropriate programs and policies to be formulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SEC. 4. Role of Government Agencies and the Local Government Units. - The information necessary for the PBRD shall be generated and collected through the business permits issued by cities and municipalities as well as those gathered by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry. The heads of the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Statistics Office, and the mayors of cities and municipalities shall assist the local chambers of the PCCI in collecting the information necessary for the PBRD. The local chambers of the PCCI will ensure that the data is collected, encoded and transmitted to the PBRD.

SEC. 5. Role of the Local Chambers. - The PCCI through the local chambers shall work and coordinate with the heads of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry, as well as the mayor's office of each city and municipality to establish and maintain a Local Business Registry Databank (LBRD).

SEC. 6. Appropriations. There is hereby appropriated initially for the first year the sum of Ten Million pesos from any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the implementation of this Act.

An additional amount shall be determined by the PBRD National Coordinating Board and shall be collected for each business permit to be issued by the city or municipality and remitted to the expended solely to finance the computer hardware and software.

The additional amount from the mayor's permit shall be for the systems maintenance, promotions, and consultancy and training for the advancement and growth of micro, small and medium enterprises in the respective provinces.

SEC. 7. Rules and Regulations. The PBWD National Coordinating Board shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are contrary to the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended and modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. - If any part of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in English or Filipino in the official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved,