

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 2048

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **Honorable Leopoldo N. Bataoil**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require all business establishments, public offices and facilities, schools, and local government units to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras to protect the premises against the commission of crimes.

It is the policy of the State to maintain peace and order, protect life, liberty and property and to promote the general welfare of the people. Towards this end, the State shall prescribe strategies and means to discourage the commission of crimes and increase the safety and security of the citizenry. Security is vital to all walks of life to ensure that the overall safety and possessions of all individuals are protected.

Nowadays, most buildings owners, residences in first class subdivisions, schools, malls and similar establishments hire the services of security guards to guard their premises. The eyes and ears of these security guards are not extensive enough to provide an over watch of the entire premises. This is where cameras within the CCTV security system play a crucial role. The presence of cameras can act as a deterrent in the commission of a crime. However, not all owners of establishment, schools, and similar establishments have CCTV cameras because they find it unnecessary considering that they have already hired the services of security guard.

Under this bill, installation of CCTV cameras in central areas of the premises are required in all business establishments, public offices and facilities, schools and local government units and failure to do so will subject the owners to a penalty. Likewise, the licensing office of every city or municipality shall make the installation of CCTV cameras a mandatory requirement before the issuance of a business permit or permit to operate or the renewal of the same.

The bill provides some prohibitive acts such as the installation of CCTV cameras in any restrooms, toilet, shower, and similar areas and the installation of cameras shall be limited to common areas, reception areas, lobbies, waiting lounges, hallways and similar

areas. The owners of the establishment shall maintain privacy and confidentiality of the video recordings.

Lastly, it is also required that owners of establishments, public office and facilities, schools, parks, and similar others to retain the continuous digital images recorded by the CCTV cameras for not less than thirty (30) days for review and reference purposes. Upon a written request from the authorized or designated officer, the video recording of the CCTV cameras or video surveillance system shall be made available to the law enforcement authorities engaged in the criminal investigation. The captured video footage or images may be used at any time to satisfy the written order or subpoena of any court or body with competent jurisdiction. Finally, a penalty for those who fail to comply with the provisions of this Act is herein provided.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is highly recommended.



LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL

Congress of the Philippines
Seventeenth Congress
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House Bill No. 2048

Introduced by Representative Leopoldo N. Bataoil

AN ACT

**REQUIRING BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, PUBLIC OFFICES AND FACILITIES,
SCHOOLS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO INSTALL CLOSED-CIRCUIT
TELEVISION (CCTV) CAMERAS TO DETER THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES AND
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “CCTV Cameras for
2 *Security and Crime Prevention Act.*”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** –It is the policy of the State to maintain peace
4 and order, protect life, liberty and property and to promote the general welfare.
5 Towards this end, the State shall prescribe strategies and means to discourage crime
6 and increase the safety and security of the public.

7 **SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage.*** - The following are required to install CCTV
8 cameras or video surveillance system in their places of operation:

9 a) Business establishments which include banks, malls, supermarkets, shopping
10 centers, groceries, pawnshops, money remittance centers, money changers,
11 gasoline stations, hotels, restaurants, fast food centers, convenience stores, drug
12 stores, movie houses, entertainment centers, hospitals, airports, seaports, transport
13 terminals, warehouses and other similar places;

14 b) Public offices and facilities;

15 c) Public and private schools including technical or vocational schools from
16 primary, secondary and tertiary levels with at least one thousand (1000) students;

17 d) Parks or plazas, market places, main thoroughfares, and other places of
18 public congregation; and

e) Other establishments which the city or municipality, through an ordinance, may require, due to the nature of business and potential risks in their respective areas.

SEC. 4. *Duties of Covered Establishments.* –All covered establishments shall:

a) Install and maintain CCTV cameras in strategic places inside and outside their premises frequented by the public or where people usually transact business and at heights free from human intervention and obstruction;

b) Ensure that the installed CCTV cameras are of high-quality resolution capable of delineating the activity and physical features of individuals and areas within the premises being recorded;

c) Ensure that the CCTV cameras are turned-on and recording for twenty-four (24) hours each day for seven (7) days a week;

d) Ensure that video feeds or recordings are being monitored or supervised by a personnel specifically tasked to do so; and

e) Make video recordings available within a reasonable period of time upon the request of the proper authorities and allow copies thereof to be made at the expense of the requesting party in accordance with Sections 5, 10 and 11 of this Act.

The licensing office of every city or municipality shall require the installation of CCTV cameras or video surveillance system as a mandatory requirement before the issuance of a business permit or permit to operate and the renewal thereof.

SEC. 5. *Preservation of Video Recordings.* – Covered establishments shall retain the continuous digital images recorded by the CCTV cameras for not less than thirty (30) days for review and reference purposes. After thirty (30) days, the continuous digital images recorded shall be preserved and stored for safekeeping for a period to be provided in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act, and may be disposed of after the lapse of such period at the option of the owner.

1 SEC. 6. **Mandatory Reporting.** – Whenever a crime occurs or when the
2 owner, director, manager, proprietor, administrator or any employee of an
3 establishment, subject of this Act, believes that a crime has been committed and
4 has been recorded by the CCTV cameras of the establishment, the owner, director,
5 manager, proprietor, administrator shall immediately contact the law enforcement
6 authorities within twenty-four (24) hours upon knowledge of the commission of a crime
7 and provide immediate access to the pertinent CCTV video recordings thereof.

8 SEC. 7. **Access by Law Enforcement Agencies, Judicial and Quasi-Judicial**
9 **Bodies.** – The operator, employee or owner of the business establishment shall
10 make available the video recordings of the CCTV cameras or video surveillance
11 system to the law enforcement authorities engaged in criminal investigation
12 upon written request of the authorized or designated officer thereof with the
13 particular time and day covered by the request therein specified.

14 The captured video footage or images may be used at any time to satisfy
15 the written order or subpoena of any court or body with competent jurisdiction.

16 SEC. 8. **Notice of Surveillance.** –The general public shall be informed that
17 CCTV cameras have been installed in an establishment through a written notice
18 displayed at the entrance of the establishment or in other conspicuous areas of the
19 covered establishment as may be provided in the IRR of this Act.

20 SEC.9. **Prohibited Surveillance.** – In covered establishments as provided in
21 Section 3 of this Act, the installation of CCTV cameras in any restroom, toilet, shower,
22 bathroom, bedroom, changing room and other similar areas is strictly prohibited.

23 For covered establishments engaged in services which require privacy,
24 installation of CCTV cameras or video surveillance system shall be limited to common
25 areas and those accessible to the public including reception areas, lobbies, waiting
26 lounges, hallways, stairways, pools, and similar areas.

27 SEC.10. **Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure of Recordings.** –The owner,
28 director, manager, proprietor or administrator of any establishment subject of this Act
29 shall maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the video recordings obtained. The
30 owner, director, manager, proprietor or administrator shall prohibit any use, viewing,

1 disclosure or publication of the video recordings, whether in whole or in part by any
2 unauthorized person.

3 It shall also be unlawful for any person, not authorized by the owner, director,
4 manager, proprietor or administrator of the establishment:

5 a) To publish or broadcast, or cause to be published or broadcast, whether
6 in print or broadcast media, or show or exhibit the saved CCTV video recordings
7 and the public identification of any person in that video through video compact
8 discs, digital video discs, internet, cellular phones and other similar means or
9 device;

10 b) To sell or distribute, or cause to be sold or distributed, such CCTV video
11 recording; and

12 c) To release images or video recordings from the CCTV to the media, in
13 case of law enforcement authorities, except when the circumstances warrant to
14 help identify the perpetrator of a crime or locate the whereabouts of the suspect
15 or suspects, or as a matter of public information, subject to other existing laws.

16 Prosecution for any violation of this section shall be without prejudice to any
17 liabilities for violation of other existing laws.

18 SEC. 11. **Allowed Use and Disclosure.**— The use, copying or disclosure of the
19 video recordings obtained pursuant to the surveillance performed in accordance with
20 this Act shall be allowed only under the following instances:

21 a) To assist law enforcement authorities in connection with and limited to the
22 investigation or prosecution of an offense punishable by law or any regulation;

23 b) To aid or in furtherance of any criminal, administrative or civil proceedings;

24 c) To avoid an imminent threat to a person or property;

25 d) To provide any person whose image has been recorded and who makes a
26 request in writing to have a copy of the recording, access to the recording or copy the
27 same which the applicant may use for any legitimate purpose as stated in the said
28 request; and

1 e) To help in the maintenance of public order and safety in a city or
2 municipality and to intensify their drive to deter, prevent, detect, and solve
3 criminality in their jurisdiction.

4 The owner, director, manager, proprietor or administrator of the establishment
5 shall release or produce the CCTV video recordings to the requesting law enforcement
6 authority or affected person within twenty-four (24) hours upon submission of the
7 request.

8 **SEC.12. Responsibility of the Owner, Director, Manager, Proprietor or**
9 **Administrator before Disclosure.**—The owner, director, manager, proprietor or
10 administrator of the establishment shall exercise prudence and necessary care before
11 giving requesting parties access to the CCTV video recordings to ensure that the
12 conditions for the use, viewing, copying or disclosure of the CCTV video recordings
13 are made only in the instances enumerated under Section 11 of this Act. The extent
14 of the CCTV video recordings to be used, viewed, copied or disclosed shall be
15 limited to the images pertaining to the above-mentioned instances.

16 **SEC. 13. Responsibilities of Heads of Offices and Other Officials in the**
17 **Installation of CCTVs.**— The heads of offices, in case of government offices and public
18 buildings or facilities; the city and municipal mayors with respect to parks, streets,
19 alleys and other places of public congregation in their respective territorial jurisdiction;
20 as well as the owners, and administrators of schools or academic and learning
21 institutions; and the owners and proprietors of business establishments, shall
22 cause the installation of the CCTV cameras.

23 **SEC. 14. Minimum Standards.** – The CCTV or video surveillance system
24 must be capable of delineating on playback of the system the activity and
25 physical features of persons or areas within the premises and must be able to
26 record such images or video on any approved form of media.

27 Other standard specifications of the CCTV cameras or video surveillance system
28 to be installed by the covered establishments shall be provided in the IRR of this Act.

29 **SEC. 15. Inspection.** – For purposes of this Act, personnel from the
30 Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) of the concerned local government
31 unit (LGU) assisted by personnel from the Philippine National Police are authorized to

1 conduct regular inspection of establishments in their jurisdiction to ensure
2 compliance with the provisions of this Act and to the minimum standard
3 specifications for the CCTV surveillance system as may be provided in the IRR of this
4 Act.

5 SEC.16. **Compliance Period.** –Establishments subject to the provisions of this
6 Act shall have six (6) months from the effectivity of the IRR to comply with the
7 regulations set forth in this Act.

8 In cases where the covered establishments have existing CCTV cameras or
9 video surveillance system but the specifications are below the specifications
10 provided under this Act and its IRR, the covered establishments shall be allowed
11 a three-year depreciation of their previously purchased equipment before being
12 required to install the CCTV cameras or video surveillance system with the
13 minimum specifications required by this Act and its IRR.

14 SEC. 17. **Priority Areas in Local Government Units.** – LGUs shall prioritize the
15 areas in their jurisdiction where the installation of CCTV cameras or video surveillance
16 system will significantly help in improving the safety and security of the locality taking
17 into consideration the available statistics on crime incidence in the LGU during the
18 previous years.

19 SEC. 18. **Assistance to Local Government Units.** – The Department of the
20 Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall implement a program to provide financial
21 assistance to LGUs particularly the lower class municipalities to enable these LGUs to
22 comply with the provisions of this Act. The Secretary of the Interior and Local
23 Government shall issue the necessary guidelines about the program including the
24 eligibility of LGUS to avail of the program.

25 The DILG shall include in its budget proposal for the following year after the
26 approval of this Act and for succeeding years, when necessary, the budgetary
27 requirements for the program.

28 SEC. 19. **Penalties.** – a) Any violation of the requirements under paragraphs
29 (a), (b), (c), and (d) of Section 4 of this Act shall result in the notice of violation to be
30 issued by the regulatory agency or office. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the
31 notice, the violator shall provide proof of compliance. If the violation continues after

1 the thirty (30)day period, the violation shall be punished with imprisonment not
2 exceeding six (6) months or a fine not to exceed Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00),
3 or both, without prejudice to any liabilities for violation of other existing laws;

4 b) For LGUs, government offices and other public facilities, failure to comply
5 with Section 4 of this act **shall result in the notice of violation to be issued by the**
6 **appropriate supervising authority. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the**
7 **notice, the violator shall provide proof of compliance. If the violation continues**
8 **after the thirty (30)day period, the violation shall be punished with**
9 **imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or a fine not to exceed Fifty**
10 **thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both.** Non-compliance shall also constitute
11 nonfeasance, and the local chief executive, head of office and other persons
12 responsible shall be subject to the penalties provided for in appropriate laws;

13 c) Any person who is found to have willfully and knowingly destroyed, altered
14 or concealed a recorded video or its storage medium with the intent to affect any
15 criminal, civil or administrative proceeding or investigation shall be punished with a fine
16 of not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) or imprisonment of
17 not more than one (1) year, or both, without prejudice to any liabilities for violation of
18 other existing laws; and

19 d) **Any person who violates Section 10 of this Act shall be punished**
20 **with imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or a fine not to exceed Fifty**
21 **thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both, without prejudice to any liabilities for**
22 **violation of other existing laws.**

23 SEC. 20. **Appropriations.**— For purposes of government offices and LGUs, the
24 funding requirement to implement the provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the
25 regular appropriations of the agencies and LGUs concerned.

26 SEC.21. **Implementing Agencies.**— The Secretary of the Interior and Local
27 Government and the respective local government units shall ensure the effective
28 implementation of this Act. Public elementary and secondary schools shall, for
29 purposes of the implementation of this Act, be under the jurisdiction of the
30 Department of Education, while tertiary level schools shall be under the jurisdiction

of the Commission on Higher Education. Technical-vocational schools shall be under the jurisdiction of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

SEC. 22. National CCTV Strategy. – Pursuant to the declared policy of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, with the assistance of the Department of Science and Technology, and in consultation with other concerned government agencies and stakeholders, shall formulate a National CCTV Strategy based on the following themes:

a) The need for standards in all aspects of CCTV or video surveillance system;

b) The need for clear guidelines on registration, inspection and enforcement;

c) Training of personnel from the covered establishments and law enforcement authorities;

d) The use by law enforcement authorities of CCTV video recordings and evidence;

e) Storage, volume, archiving and retention issues of CCTV video recordings;

f) The need for CCTV networks, whether live or stored;

g) Equipping, resourcing and standardization;

h) Emerging technologies, changing threats, and new and changing priorities;

i) Partnership working; and

j) Financial and resource management.

SEC.23. Implementing Rules and Regulations.– Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the appropriate government agencies and other stakeholders,

1 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation
2 of this Act.

3 SEC.24. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this act is held
4 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
5 remain in full force and in effect.

6 SEC.25. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
7 orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, contrary or inconsistent with the
8 provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9 SEC.26. **Effectivity Clause.** –This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
10 after its complete publication in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

11 *Approved,*