

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. **3448**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
DATE:	<u>05 SEP 2016</u>
TIME:	<u>1:00 PM</u>
BY:	<u>[Signature]</u>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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Introduced by: Rep. ARNOLFO TEVES, JR.

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BIOMETRIC  
TECHNOLOGY-BASED NATIONAL ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION  
SYSTEM**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to introduce a national electronic identification system that will promote convenience for Filipinos in transacting with the government and at the same time for the government to provide efficient services. The national electronic identification system is envisioned to use fingerprint-based biometric technology. It will be voluntary for all Filipinos whether residing in the Philippines or abroad. It will be adopted in all transactions with the government.

Fingerprint-based biometric technology is ideal for a national electronic identification system with the existence of an initial database at the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). As of 2016, there are 54,363,844 Filipinos enrolled in the COMELEC biometrics nationwide and 1,376,067 from the overseas workers (OFWs) group. In 2015, the Philippine National Police declared that the current number in their Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database is at 761,000 fingerprints. On the other hand, the Social Security System (SSS) reported that it has issued over four million biometric-based Unified Multi-Purpose Identification System (UMID) cards for the year 2014. According to the NBI, there were 63 biometrics centers in the country as of the year 2012. Philippine passports are also now being issued employing biometric technology.

The necessity of a national electronic identification system in the Philippines is underscored by the need to reform tedious and circuitous government procedures that waste the time and energy of the public and government institutions themselves. In light of ASEAN integration, the urgency of easing business processes is also gaining momentum and the Philippines can take advantage of potential local and foreign business investments. Furthermore, the world is rapidly moving towards high-technology equipment, which offer innovative products that can greatly enhance efficiency in the country, particularly the delivery of frontline government services to its citizens.

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



**ARNOLFO A. TEVES, JR.**

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3448

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Introduced by: Rep. ARNOLFO A. TEVES, JR.

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BIOMETRIC  
TECHNOLOGY-BASED NATIONAL ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION  
SYSTEM**

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

1     **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as "The National Electronic  
2 Identification System Act."

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4     **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It is the policy of the State to promote a just and  
5 dynamic social order that shall ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and  
6 free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, and  
7 improved quality life for all. In this regard, there is a pressing need to have an effective  
8 and efficient national identification system in order to facilitate transactions with the  
9 government and address the issue of red tape in the government bureaucracy, and to  
10 simplify the processes relative to public and private services.

11  
12     **SECTION 3. *Features of the National Electronic ID System.*** All data related to the  
13 National Electronic Identification System shall be stored in a computer database that will  
14 be managed by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in coordination with the  
15 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Individual records  
16 shall contain the name, birth date, eye color, gender, fingerprints and palm prints,  
17 photograph, permanent residence, date of registration, and a Common Reference Number

(CRN), which shall be unique to each and every Filipino to be issued solely by the PSA in coordination with the Philippine Embassies and Consular Offices for those residing outside the Philippines.

**SECTION 4. *Roles and Functions of Agencies.*** The PSA shall serve as the main repository of all individual identification data and shall create and maintain a Filipino Citizen Registry.

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Health and Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Philippine Regulations Commission (PRC), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Philippine Postal Services (PPS), Philippine Embassies and Consular Offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the local civil registry offices of all local government units shall coordinate with the PSA to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, and determine the technology requirements.

The PSA shall also observe best practices of other countries in the adoption of a National ID system.

**SECTION 5. *Registration/ Enrollment in the National Electronic ID System.*** Upon completion of the necessary technology infrastructure in accordance with this Act, any Filipino citizen may exercise the option to have his/her biometrics data included in the database for a National Electronic Identification System by applying for registration at the office of the Local Civil Registrar of the city or municipality where one is a resident. Also, any Filipino residing abroad shall apply for registration at the nearest Philippine Embassy or Consular Office of the country where he/she is residing

**SECTION 6. *Change in Material Information.*** Any person who intends to change data related to his/her identification information already stored in the national computer database including, but not limited to, marital status, permanent residence, or any material data shall have the duty to inform the Local Civil Registrar, or Philippine Embassy/Consular Office where the person is residing within a certain period as shall be prescribed by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Cases with regards to changes in material information shall include, the following, among others:

1. Change in name, family name by virtue of court order or by application of law, such as when a woman adopts a surname of the husband through marriage; and

2. Such other revisions that may be deemed necessary by the identity holder such as change in facial features due to change or medical intervention.

**SECTION 7. *Functional Uses of National Electronic ID System.*** The data stored in the National Electronic ID system will serve as the official identification of a Filipino citizen of the Republic of the Philippines. It will consolidate all existing government – instituted identification systems into one, centralized and efficient identification system. The National Electronic ID system shall be used for transactions which require verification of one’s identity such as, but not limited to:

1. transactions with any government agency;
2. filing applications for any services and benefits offered by the GSIS, the SSS, Philhealth, and LTO;
3. transacting tax payments with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
4. availing of services in any government hospital, health center or similar institutions;
5. proof of identity in any official and business transactions; and
6. other similar transactions or uses which may be defined by the PSA in the implementing rules and regulations.

**SECTION 8. *Identification Technology.*** This Act mandates the installation of state-of-the-art fingerprint-based biometric machines in all relevant agencies for coordination and verification of data and identity holders. The government shall provide a single, uniform biometric data format and a common platform, which will be the same in all relevant agencies to ensure compatibility of the technology throughout the entire government system. This means all agencies concerned must coordinate their technological infrastructure to pair up or comply with the requirements of the fingerprint-based biometric technology.

Biometrics refers to the quantitative analysis that provides a positive identification of an individual such as voice, photograph, fingerprint, signature, iris, and/or such other identifiable features captured by a device called Data Capture Machine (DCM).

**SECTION 9. *Penal Provisions.*** Any person who knowingly uses false information in applying for registration at the National Electronic ID system through fraud and who utilizes the data in an unlawful manner, shall be punished with a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years, or both at the discretion of court.

Any person who has already registered with the Nation ID system but shall willfully and unjustifiably refuse to accept, acknowledge or recognize the National Electronic ID system as the only official identification of the identity holder shall also be punished with

1 the same penalties or imprisonment stated in the preceding paragraph.

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3 Any public official or employee who connives with the offender in committing the acts  
4 mentioned in the last two (2) preceding paragraphs or, on his own, causes the registration  
5 of unauthorized information or approves the registration of the same, despite knowledge  
6 of the existence of fraud or false information, shall suffer the corresponding penalties  
7 imposed in the last two (2) preceding paragraphs and shall suffer the penalty of perpetual  
8 disqualification from government service.

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

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13 **SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within ninety (90) days upon  
14 approval of this Act, the PSA in coordination with relevant agencies, shall promulgate the  
15 implementing rules and regulations and exchange information on existing technologies  
16 and best practices on the establishment and maintenance of a National Electronic ID  
17 system in order to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

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19 **SECTION 11. *Funding.*** The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act  
20 shall be included in the budget of the PSA and all implementing agencies in the Annual  
21 General Appropriations Act.

22  
23 **SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision, section or part of this act shall be  
24 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair  
25 any other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

26  
27 **SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations  
28 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
29 accordingly.

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31 **SECTION 14. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
32 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation  
33 whichever comes first.

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35 *Approved,...*