

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6519



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**Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The **National Bureau of Investigation**, came into existence on 19 June 1947. The **NBI** is a Division under the Department of Justice. It shall be composed of such personnel as may be necessary, in the discretion of the Secretary of Justice, and its duties shall be to help in the detection and prosecution of crimes; to acquire, collect, classify and preserve criminal identification records; and to obtain information on all matters affecting the public interest.

The National Bureau of Investigation shall:

1. Undertake investigation of crimes and other offenses against the laws of the Philippines, upon its own initiative and as public interest may require;
2. To render assistance, whenever properly requested in the investigation or detection of crimes and other offenses;
3. To act as a national clearing house of criminal and other information for the benefit use of all prosecuting and law enforcement entities of the Philippines; identification records of identifying marks, characteristics, and ownership or possession of all firearms as well as of test bullets fired therefrom;
4. To give technical aid to all prosecuting and law enforcement officers and entities of the government as well as the courts that may request its services;
5. To extend its services, whenever properly requested in the investigation of cases of administrative or civil in nature in which the government is interested;

6. To establish and maintain an up-to-date scientific crime laboratory and to conduct researches in furtherance of scientific knowledge in criminal investigation;

7. To perform such other related functions as the Minister (Secretary since 1987) of Justice may assign from time to time.

This House Bill seeks to provide the National Bureau of Investigation (**NBI**) with additional modernization funding to enhance its investigative functionality.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**MICHAEL L. ROMERO**

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (**NBI**), PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, EXPANDING ITS CAPABILITY AND EFFECTIVITY, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 1. TITLE** — This Act shall be known as the **National  
Bureau of Investigation Modernization Act of 2020**.

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY** — It is hereby a declared  
policy of the State to foster an effective, modern, proficient and highly trained  
investigative body, functionally integrated and national in scope.

The State shall create policies and programs to modernize the National  
Bureau of Investigation (NBI) with expanded structure, capability and  
manpower, responsive to the demands of the current times.



**SECTION 3. MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION** — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is hereby modernized to adequately meet the increasing demands of an expanded investigative and detective work.

It shall implement a modernization program geared towards the acquisition of state-of-the-art investigative and intelligence equipment and the establishment of forensic and scientific laboratories. The program shall include provisions for the training of its personnel in this regard.

The present organizational structure of the NBI shall be reorganized into the Office of the Director, Office of the Deputy Director for Administration, Office of the Deputy Director for Operations, Offices of the Assistant Directors for Investigation Service, Intelligence Service, Comptroller Service, Human Resource and Management Service, Forensic and Scientific Research Service, Legal Service, and Information and Communications Technology Service. Each service shall be composed of the necessary divisions and sections.

**SECTION 4. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF AGENTS.** — The agents of the NBI shall have the following powers and functions:

- i Undertake investigations pursuant to the mandate of the NBI;
- ii Conduct searches, arrests, and seizures in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations;
- iii Take and require sworn statements of any person or persons so summoned in relation to cases under investigation;
- iv Administer oaths in cases under investigation; and
- v Such other functions as may be assigned by the NBI Director.

**SECTION 5. BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES.** — The NBI shall provide its personnel with the following benefits:

- i. Health care services through a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) for its regular employees;

- ii. Accident insurance policies for all employees;
- iii. Trainings, scholarships, and seminars to deserving employees to upgrade their knowledge and skills, on official time and at the expense of the NBI;
- iv. Longevity pay, subject to guidelines that shall hereafter be issued by the NBI Director in accordance with existing laws and regulations and subject further to the approval of the DBM Secretary;
- v. Hazard pay, subject to pertinent laws and rules; and
- vi. Transportation benefits, subject to availability of funds; employees shall be provided with contracted transportation services until such time that the office can procure additional motor vehicles for this purpose.

**SECTION 6. SEMINARS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL FEES. —**

Fees for relevant seminars, as well as professional membership fees for lawyers, registration fees, and related miscellaneous expenses incurred in completing the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) course shall be borne by the NBI. Likewise, professional membership fees, registration fees, including the mandatory continuing professional education (CPE), and related miscellaneous expenses of other employees holding positions for which a professional license is required by the NBI shall be borne by the NBI.

**CHAPTER II**

**APPROPRIATIONS**

**SECTION 7. RETENTION AND USE OF NBI CLEARANCE FEES AND OTHER FEES.** - The NBI shall be authorized to retain and use every year Forty percent (**40%**) of its collections from clearance fees for its modernization and to augment its operational expenses such as, but not limited to, capital outlay, expenses for health care services, career advancement and professionalization, legal assistance, seminars and other professional fees, among others:



Provided, That in no case shall said annual appropriation exceed Three hundred million pesos (**₱300,000,000.00**)

**SECTION 8. FUNDING SOURCE.** — The funds required for the implementation of this Act, including employee benefits, shall be taken from:

- a) Collections from NBI clearance and certification fees;
- b) Incidental income from trainings, tests, and the like;
- c) Proceeds from the sale of confiscated/forfeited articles after public auction from the cases investigated by the NBI upon order of the court;
- d) Other fees which may be determined and imposed by the Director;  
and
- e) The General Appropriations Act.

### CHAPTER III SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

**SECTION 9. TRANSITORY PROVISION** – Existing industries, business and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

**SECTION 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

*This shall be under the supervision of the NBI Director, in coordination with the Secretary of Justice.*

CHAPTER IV  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 13. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,