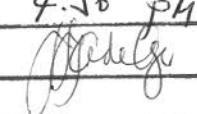


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 512**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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Introduced by **HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to institutionalize a national information system to be known as the "Philippine National Identification System". This is in line with the policy of the State to provide adequate social services and improve the quality of life of its people.

The Philippine National Identification System is a progressive, economic and social tool to identify all Filipino citizens. It aims to facilitate, streamline and simplify the processes in securing and rendering efficient government and private services. The System will provide an official, numbered, identification card to all Filipinos to be known as the "Philippine National Identification Card or the FilCard". It shall contain the photograph, name, date and place of birth, signature of the cardholder/owner. The FilCard shall be made of tamper proof security material with capability to store the biometric data of the individual cardholder.

Application and issuance of the FilCard shall be initially free of charge as part of the government's social responsibility. Birth certificates issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and pre-existing government-issued identification card shall be accepted and utilized as reference in the issuance of the FilCard. This will gradually concert and consolidate all existing government issued identification cards into one-integrated, efficient ID system. The PSA, which is the custodian of birth, marriage and death certificates, shall be the implementing agency of this measure.

The FilCard shall serve as the official identification of a Filipino citizen whether residing in the Philippine or abroad. It will save time in the delivery of services, provide timely medical services and eliminate additional identity documents. Most importantly, it will help many Filipinos who remain faceless for lack of any identification cards, whether government of otherwise.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is highly recommended. It is high time a Philippine National Identification Card be issued to every citizen of the Philippines. This will strengthen the confidence and self-esteem of Filipinos to immediately present themselves as a person and as a Filipino.

  
**HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte

Republic of the Philippines  
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**HOUSE BILL NO. 512**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

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

**SEC. 1.** This Act shall be known as the "Philippine National Identification System Act."

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that shall ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, and improved quality life for all. Towards this end, an effective identification system is hereby established to curb the perennial problem of red tape in the government bureaucracy and to simplify the processes relative to public and private services.

**SEC. 3. The Philippine National Identification System.** - The Philippine National Identification System is hereby established and instituted as an economic and social tool towards the attainment of progressive society through efficient services for all Filipinos. The identification system shall provide official identification of all citizens of the Republic of the Philippines through the issuance of the Philippine National Identification Card or the FilCard. It shall gradually concert and consolidate all existing Government-initiated identification systems into one-integrated and efficient identification system.

**SEC. 4. The FilCard.** - Every Filipino, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad is mandated to register personal information required by the ID system, and upon application shall be issued a non-transferrable ID card with an ID number that shall be valid for FIVE (5) years, subject to replacement under the following circumstances:

- (a) When a child reaches the legal age of eighteen (18) years old;
- (b) When there is change in name, family name by virtue of court order or by application of law, such as married woman adopting the surname of the husband;
- (c) For lost or destroyed ID card;

- (d) For other revisions that may be deemed necessary by the card holder such as changes in the facial features due to age or medical intervention;
- (e) When there is change in sex.

The FilCard shall be made of tamper-proof security material. It shall have on its face the imprinted photograph, name, birth date, gender, date of issue, signature of owner, the corresponding individual serial number issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and such other data as may be deemed necessary. The FilCard shall also have the capability to store at least the biometric data of the individual cardholder.

The issuance of the FilCard shall be free of charge. A replacement fee shall be paid by the cardholder in case the card is lost or destroyed.

The pertinent details for applicants with pre-existing government issued identification card shall be utilized and honored as reference in the issuance of the FilCard.

**SEC. 5.** *Roles and Functions of the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Department of Foreign Affairs through the Philippine Embassies and Consular Offices.* – The PSA, as the implementing agency, shall determine, validate and administer the data and materials required for FilCard issuance.

The DFA, in coordination with the PSA, shall handle registration of Filipinos residing abroad. The abovementioned government offices shall create a special unit which shall be responsible for:

- a) Accepting applications for the ID card;
- b) Processing of such applications; and
- c) Releasing the ID card to the applicants.

**SEC. 6.** *Registration.* - Upon the effectivity of this Act and when the ID system has become operational, every Filipino residing in the Philippines shall apply shall apply for the registration and issuance of the FilCard at the office of the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO) of the city or municipality where one is a resident. Likewise, every Filipino residing abroad shall apply for the registration and issuance of the ID card at the nearest Philippine Embassy or consular office of the country where they are residing. The PSA, through the LCRO or the Philippine Embassy or consular offices abroad, is mandated to issue the FilCard within ninety (90) days from the registration of live birth.

The parents or the legal guardian of the minor, incompetent or disabled person shall be responsible for the application and safekeeping of the issued FilCard.

The PSA, through the LCRO, is directed to conduct mobile registration to ensure registration of all Filipinos including the indigenous Filipinos and those in the remote communities.

**SEC. 7. Features involving the Private Sector and the Local Government Units.** - The PSA shall encourage the cooperation of the private sector and the local government units (LGUs) in granting additional benefits and privileges to the cardholders.

**SEC. 8. Functional Uses of the FilCard.** – The FilCard shall be presented and honored in transactions requiring the identity, status, birth, and all other personal circumstances such as but not limited to the following:

- a) All transactions with the government, including:
  - 1) Application for passport and driver's license;
  - 2) Filing applications for any services and benefits offered by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) and Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF);
  - 3) Application for clearances from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), courts, prosecutor and the police;
- b) Proof of identity, status, age and address, for admission in all learning institutions as well as for employment purposes;
- c) Availment of benefits or privileges afforded by law to senior citizens;
- d) Proof of identity, status, age and address for transactions in banking and financial institutions;
- e) Voting identification purposes; and
- f) Such other purposes and uses which the PSA may prescribe.

When the FilCard is presented to any government agency or for identification purposes, no other additional identification card shall be required.

Except in instances allowed under the provisions of Republic Act No. 9225 or "The Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003", the FilCard shall *motu proprio* be rendered invalid and ineffective upon the loss of Filipino citizenship.

**SEC. 9. Change of Personal Status and Residence.** – Any person who intends to effect change in his FilCard including but not limited to change of personal status, residence, or any material data shall have the duty to inform the Local Civil Registrar, Embassy, or Consular Office where the person is residing within a certain period as shall be prescribed by the implementing agency.

**SEC. 10. Protection Against Unlawful Disclosure Of Information/Records.** – No person may publish, disseminate or give to third parties or entities including government enforcement agencies any information obtained in connection with the application for the FilCard, including the use thereof except in the following cases:

- a) When the holder of the FilCard expressly authorizes the disclosure of such information to a third person, entity or agency;
- b) In the event of accident, disaster or fortuitous events, when information on the medical history of the holder such as the blood type or special medical needs or other relevant information are needed by medical institutions and health service workers;
- c) In the interest of public health or safety; and
- d) Upon order of any competent Court.

Any information obtained as a result of unlawful disclosure under this act shall be inadmissible as evidence in any criminal proceedings against the holder of the FilCard.

**SEC. 11. *Safeguards on the FilCard.*** – The PSA as repository of all data shall create and maintain a Filipino Citizen Registry that will contain the registered records and information of persons issued with FilCard. The PSA as the main issuing authority of the FilCard shall institute the necessary measures to safeguard the information provided in the FilCard. No such information shall be released to any agency, office or instrumentality, government or otherwise, nor shall be used against any person, except in cases stipulated in Section 10 of this Act.

The PSA, in pursuance of its mandated statistical function, may generate and release aggregated information from the Filipino Citizen Registry in the form of summaries and statistical tables: *Provided*, that no reference to an individual shall appear and that no person can be readily identified in the released information.

The information in the Filipino Citizen Registry shall be categorized in a manner that allows proper safeguard, data access, security and change management.

**SEC. 12. *Penal Provisions.*** – Any person who knowingly uses false information in applying for the issuance of a ID card or procures one through fraud and utilizes the card 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 shall wilfully and unjustifiably refuse to accept, acknowledge or recognize the FilCard as the only official identification of the owner thereof shall also be punished with the same penalties or imprisonment stated in the preceding paragraph.

Any public official or employee who connives with the offender in committing the acts mentioned in the last two (2) preceding paragraphs or, on his own, causes the issuance of an authorized FilCard or approves the application for the same, despite the knowledge of the existence of fraud or false information, shall suffer the corresponding penalties imposed in the last two (2) preceding paragraphs and shall suffer the penalty of perpetual disqualification from government service.

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

**SEC. 13. *Failure to Present the FilCard.*** – Failure of any person to present an FilCard when transacting business with the government or with private entities requiring its use and presentation shall not be a ground to deny or limit the grant of basic government and private service as long as such transaction is qualified under existing laws.

**SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act, the PSA in coordination with relevant agencies, such as the DFA, the National Economic Development Authority, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Science and Technology, Commission on Elections, GSIS, SSS, PHILHEALTH and the Bureau of Immigration shall promulgate rules and regulations and exchange existing technologies and best practices on the issuance of identification cards to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 15. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the budget of the Philippine Statistics Authority and Department of Foreign Affairs in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.***– If any provision, section or part of this act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

**SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*