

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4167**



Introduced by **Hon. Sol Aragon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The benefits and challenges of a growing population and increasing complexity of both public and private transactions requires simplification through the implementation of a National ID System in the Philippines. Technological advances in biometrics and the need to keep up with an increasing number of electronics-based activities, from voting and securing government licenses to banking and personal finance, all point to the need for an improved identification system.

Integrated national ID systems have proven useful and beneficial to members of the European Union, where an integrated personal information number is crucial to everyday transactions. The World Bank has likewise spearheaded funding in the strengthening of national statistical systems in a number of European and Central Asian countries, further proving the necessity of such systems for the maintenance of political, economic and social stability in both developed and developing nations.

The Philippine National ID System embodied in this Act is an economic and social tool of efficiency and convenience that shall integrate once-disparate and uncoordinated personal information systems into a single, coherent, simplified and secure system that can be used in government and private sector transactions. The National ID benefits Filipino citizens residing locally and abroad, affording electronic protection of their personal information and easy access to government services.

An integrated ID system shall likewise provide new personal information data to possibly millions of Filipinos who may not have retained their birth certificates and other civil registry data, thus incorporating them into the national economic, social and political mainstream for the first time.

This Act provides sufficient technological and legal protections against fraud and misuse, and ensures the integrity and confidentiality of all information obtained in relation to the establishment and maintenance of such National ID System.

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


HON. SOL ARAGONES
Representative, Third District of Laguna

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1 **AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM OF THE**
2 **PHILIPPINES**

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "National ID System Act
4 of the Philippines".

5 SECTION 2. *Declaration of policy.* – It is the policy of the State to provide swift,
6 efficient and responsive public and private services to its citizens in order to improve their
7 quality of life, make government bureaucracy responsive to their needs, and simplify
8 government, commercial and other transactions both in the public and private sectors.

9 SECTION 3. *The National ID System.* – The "National ID System" is hereby
10 established and instituted as a tool towards the achievement of efficient services to all
11 Filipino citizens. The National ID System shall provide official identification to all citizens of
12 the Republic of the Philippines through the issuance of the Filipino Identification Card
13 (National ID Card). Its purpose is to consolidate all existing Government-initiated
14 identification systems into one integrated and efficient identification system.

15 SECTION 4. *The National ID Card* – Every Filipino, whether residing in the
16 Philippines or abroad, is required to register personal information required by the National ID
17 System, and upon application shall be issued a permanent, non-transferrable National ID
18 Card with an ID number that shall be valid for life, subject to replacement only under the
19 following circumstances:

- a) When a child reaches the legal age of eighteen (18) years old;
- b) When there is change in name and family name by virtue of court order or by application of law, such as a married woman adopting the surname of the husband or children subject to adoption;
- c) For lost or destroyed ID card, subject to presentation of sufficient and acceptable proof of such loss or destruction;
- d) For other revisions that may be deemed necessary by the cardholder such as changes due to age or medical intervention,

The National ID Card 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 National ID Card shall also have the capability to store at least the biometric data of the individual cardholder.

The initial application and issuance of the National ID Card shall be free of charge. Replacements shall be paid for by the cardholder.

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

SECTION 5. Functions and Responsibilities of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) through Philippine Embassies and Consular Offices. – The PSA, as the implementing agency, shall determine, validate and administer the data and materials required to avail of the benefits of the identification system.

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

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

1 SECTION 6. *Registration.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act and when the ID system
2 has become operational, every Filipino residing in the Philippines shall apply for the
3 registration and issuance of the National ID Card at the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO)
4 of the city or municipality where one is a resident. Likewise, every Filipino residing abroad
5 shall apply for the registration and issuance of the Filipino ID card at the nearest Philippine
6 Embassy or consular office of the country where such Filipino is residing.

7 The PSA, through the LCRO or the Philippine Embassy or consular offices abroad, is
8 mandated to issue a Filipino ID card within ninety (90) days from the registration of live birth
9 of any Filipino citizen whether born in the Philippines or abroad.

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

13 SECTION 7. *Functional Uses of the National ID Card.* – The National ID Card shall
14 be presented and honored in transactions requiring the identity, status, birth and all other
15 personal circumstances such as the following:

- 16 a) All transactions with the government, including:
- 17 (1) Application for passport and driver's license;
- 18 (2) Filing of applications for any services and benefits offered by the Government
19 Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Social Security System (SSS), the
20 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and the Home Development
21 Mutual Fund (HDMF); and
- 22 (3) Application for clearances from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI),
23 courts, prosecutorial services and the police;
- 24 b) Proof of identity, status, age and address for admission in all learning institutions as
25 well as for employment purposes;
- 26 c) Availment of benefits or privileges afforded by law to senior citizens, persons with
27 disability and other classes of citizens afforded special benefits by law;

- d) Proof of identity, status, age and address for transactions in banking, financial and commercial institutions;
- e) Voting identification purposes; and
- f) Such other purposes and uses which the PSA may prescribe.

When the National ID Card is presented to any government agency 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 Re-acquisition Act of 2003", the Filipino ID card shall *motu proprio* be rendered invalid and ineffective upon the loss of Filipino citizenship.

SECTION 8. *Change of Personal Status and Residence.* – Any person who intends to effect changes in his National ID including change in personal status, residence, or any other material information, is required to inform the LCRO, the embassy or consular office where such person is residing, within an immediate period prescribed by the PSA.

SECTION 9. *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 Filipino ID card, including the use thereof except in the following cases:

- a) When the holder of the National ID Card expressly authorizes in writing such disclosure or dissemination;
- 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 extreme cases of emergency, when public health, order or safety so requires; and
- d) Upon the order of any competent court.

Any information obtained as a result of unlawful disclosure under this Act shall be inadmissible as evidence in any judicial proceedings.

1 SECTION 10. *Safeguards on the National ID.* – The PSA, as repository of all data,
2 shall create and maintain an electronic Filipino Citizen Registry that will contain the
3 registered records and information of persons issued with the National ID Card. The PSA, as
4 the main issuing authority of the official Filipino ID Card, in coordination with the
5 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall institute the
6 necessary measures to protect and safeguard the integrity and confidentiality of information
7 provided in the National ID Card. No such information shall be released to any other agency,
8 office or instrumentality, government or otherwise, nor shall it be used against any person
9 except in cases provided in Section 9 of this Act.

10 SECTION 11. *Penal Provisions.* – Any person who willingly and knowingly uses
11 false information in applying for the issuance of a National ID Card or obtains one through
12 fraud and utilizes the card in an unlawful manner shall be punished with a fine of not less
13 than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than five hundred fifty thousand pesos
14 (P500,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2)
15 years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

16 Any person who shall wilfully and unjustifiably refuse to accept, acknowledge or
17 recognize the Filipino ID card as the only official identification of the owner thereof shall
18 also be punished with the same penalties or imprisonment stated in the preceding paragraph.

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

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

27 SECTION 12. *Failure to Present National ID Card.* – Failure of any person to present
28 a National ID Card when transacting business with the government or with private entities
29 requiring its use and presentation shall not be a ground to deny or limit the grant of basic
30 government and private service as long as such transaction is qualified under existing laws.

1 ~~SECTION~~ 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days upon
2 approval of this Act, the PSA, in coordination with relevant agencies such as the DICT, DFA,
3 NEDA, DILG, DSWD, DOST, COMELEC, GSIS, SSS, PhilHealth and the Bureau of
4 Immigration, shall promulgate rules and regulations and exchange existing technologies and
5 best practices on the issuance of identification cards to effectively implement the provisions
6 of this Act.

7 SECTION 14. *Funding.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this
8 Act shall be included in the budget of the PSA and the DFA in the annual General
9 Appropriations Act.

10 SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, section or part of this Act shall
11 be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair
12 any other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

13 SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
14 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
15 accordingly.

16 SECTION 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,