

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

662

House Bill No. _____



Introduced by Representatives Ron P. Salo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Each government agency maintains its own database and information in pursuit of its mandate and the exercise of their ministerial and regulatory functions. This set up has proven to be onerous for the citizens because it requires them to travel to different offices in order to acquire these documents. They also have to worry about the long queues and fees in order to obtain these documents. Many of these agencies also usually require the original copies of the document, and thus the citizens are constrained to procure multiple original copies and pay corresponding fees.

For example, among others, both the NBI Clearance and Passport applications require the PSA authenticated birth certificate. We can do away with duplicating requirements and fees if there is an interconnected database and information system which these agencies can check in lieu of requiring the said documents.

This Bill seeks to address this problem and expedite dealings with the government by harmonizing the existing database and information systems of different government agencies and establish the Philippine Data Interconnectivity System which shall be mandated to serve as the master database where all organized collection of information, data, records, and other documents from government agencies. It aims to establish a modern, comprehensive, and secured interconnected database among government agencies that will streamline the process of obtaining common official documents and facilitate succeeding transactions of the public while keeping the integrity of government records and documents.

At present, government agencies have the liberty of requiring different forms of identifications and documents in the exercise of their mandates. This arrangement necessitates the issuance of various, but duplicating, requirements issued by the different agencies. As a consequence, ordinary citizens would have to submit again and again the same requirements and forms of identifications that were already submitted to other agencies. This redundancy becomes a burden to citizens because of the dragging bureaucracy and the fees imposed for the very same set of documents.

There is also a need to embrace perpetually evolving technology and take advantage of its benefits. This Bill shall mandate the establishment of an online

application system where the citizens will primarily process their requests. Personal appearance shall only be required when absolutely necessary. This will minimize, or possibly do away the long queues that waste so much of the citizens' time which could have been used for other productive activities.

Establishing this system will also make our country attractive to investments as it will ensure fast and efficient delivery of basic social services. It will help our government perform efficiently and lessen the tedious transactions and bureaucratic red tape that has been one of the banes of Philippine society.

The importance of creating policies that will help our constituents live their lives as convenient as possible is imperative upon us in Congress. In this case, this will necessarily reduce the costs and redundancies and simplify the processing and delivery of services in government transactions.

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



RON P. SALO
KABAYAN Partylist

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE DATA INTERCONNECTIVITY SYSTEM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Data Interconnectivity Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to provide efficient delivery of basic services to the public. In this regard, the State shall establish a modern, comprehensive, and secure data interconnectivity system that will streamline the application and succeeding transactions by citizens in the country in obtaining common official documents and availing of basic services and social security benefits while keeping the integrity of government records and promoting good governance.

SEC. 3. Philippine Data Interconnectivity System. – The Philippine Data Interconnectivity System (PDIS) is hereby established and instituted as an economic and social tool towards the attainment of a progressive society through the provision of efficient and fast government services to all Filipinos. The PDIS shall serve as the master database where information, data, records, and other documents from government agencies mandated to deliver basic services and social security benefits are collected, organized and stored. It shall gradually consolidate all existing government-initiated information data systems into one integrated and efficient national information database system.

SEC. 4. Objectives. – The Philippine Data Interconnectivity System shall have the following objectives:

- a) To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of government agencies in the management of certain government records and the delivery of government services to the public;

- b) To have a modern, comprehensive, reliable and secure national database system;
- c) To create linkages between databases of government agencies involved in collecting personal identity information of the public and the interconnection of agencies and offices;
- d) To simplify and streamline government's processes and transactions, as well eliminate costs and economic burden to the public by reducing bureaucratic transactions; and
- e) To ensure the integrity of the database of the Filipino people.

SEC. 5. Philippine Data Interconnectivity Center. – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), as the implementing agency, shall establish under its office, the Philippine Data Interconnectivity Center (PDIC) to be headed by an undersecretary, which shall be in addition to the existing undersecretaries of the DICT. The Philippine Data Interconnectivity Center shall be mandated to establish, design, develop, and administer the PDIS. In addition, the PDIC shall:

- a) Establish and maintain multi-purpose databases, data warehouses, networks, and interface of databases and related facilities and services for utilization by the government agencies included in the PDIS;
- b) Manage the PDIS and ensure its integrity by providing adequate safeguards for protection and confidentiality of data or information contained in the PDIS;
- c) Coordinate and provide technical assistance and logistics solution for the management of government databases included in the PDIS and the effective linkages of the various database systems;
- d) Review the efficiency of the PDIS and the adequacy of the safeguards to protect the integrity of the system;
- e) Conduct research, studies, surveys, experiments and other investigations necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act;
- f) Submit annual reports to the Congress of the Philippines with respect to the performance and exercise of its powers and functions;
- g) Establish and maintain online application system for requests pertaining to information, data, records, and other official documents; and
- h) Perform such acts and other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. Filipino Reference Number. – The PDIC, in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), shall generate a Filipino Reference Number

(FRN) which shall serve as the common reference number for each individual registered in the PSA. The FRN shall be used to establish a linkage among the agencies included in the PDIS.

SEC. 7. Interconnectivity Among Government Agencies. – The agencies where the public regularly conduct multiple transactions shall be prioritized for inclusion in the PDIC. It shall include, but not limited to, the following agencies:

- a) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- b) Local Civil Registrar;
- c) Local Register of Deeds;
- d) Land Registration Authority;
- e) Philippine Health Insurance Corporation of the Department of Health (Philhealth);
- f) Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-IBIG Fund (Pag-IBIG);
- g) Social Security System (SSS);
- h) Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
- i) Government Service Insurance System (GSIS);
- j) Philippine National Police (PNP);
- k) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- l) Land Transportation Office (LTO);
- m) Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB);
- n) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
- o) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- p) DSWD Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (DSWD 4Ps);
- q) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- r) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- s) Department of Education (DepEd);
- t) Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);

- u) Philippine National Police (PNP); and
- v) Other agencies may be included in the PDIS as the DICT Secretary deems necessary.

SEC. 8. Supreme Court, Congress, and Constitutional Offices. – The following institutions or offices may also be included in the PDIS, upon their concurrence:

- a) Supreme Court;
- b) Senate of the Philippines;
- c) House of Representatives;
- d) Ombudsman;
- e) Civil Service Commission;
- f) Commission on Audit; and
- g) Commission on Elections.

SEC. 9. Data Verification. – The government agencies that are included in the PDIS shall use the data derived from the PDIS to verify the identity of a person transacting with the agency, or availing of services or benefits therefrom without need of further proof aside from the Filipino Reference Number, or without need of requiring other documents that can already be verified through the PDIS.

The data to be retrieved from the PDIS shall be limited to personal information to be used solely for identification purposes. Any data outside of the personal information such as records of premium payments and name of beneficiaries necessary for a member to avail of the benefits under Philhealth, Pag-IBIG, SSS, and GSIS may also be included in the PDIS. Information indicated in the current NBI clearance shall likewise be included in the PDIS.

The public shall only deal with the primary agency, or the agency concerned with the specific transaction, and said primary agency shall verify and retrieve any data, information, records, or documents that are stored in the PDIS.

SEC. 10. Inter-agency One-Stop Shop. – The PDIC shall, in consultation with the government agencies included in the PDIS, establish an inter-agency one-stop-shop system wherein the public can request and obtain official documents at the PDIC stored at the PDIS. Information, data, records, and other official documents issued by the PDIC is considered official with the same validity as that issued by the primary agency in charge of that information, data, records, or documents.

The PDIC may establish satellite one-stop shops in places convenient to the public, such as but not limited to malls, parks, or near government and business centers, where they may request and obtain official documents stored at the PDIS.

SEC. 11. Online Applications. – The PDIC shall establish an online application system for requests pertaining to information, data, records, and other official documents stored at the PDIS, and may charge a reasonable fee equivalent only to the cost of the transaction.

Applications for requests pertaining to information, data, records, and other official documents shall primarily be online. Personal appearance of the requesting individual shall only be required when absolutely necessary.

SEC. 12. Confidentiality of Information. – The PDIC shall ensure the confidentiality of the data stored at the PDIS.

Only the authorized PDIC officers and employees and authorized officers and employees from the agencies included in the system shall be allowed access to the PDIS. The PDIC shall issue the necessary and appropriate guidelines which may include authorization for personnel from among government agencies included in the PDIC to access the PDIS.

SEC. 13. Prohibited Acts and Penalties. – Any person who:

- a) Willfully provides false information or data which forms part of the PDIS shall be punished with a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) or imprisonment for a period of not less than one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court;
- b) Being an employee of the government agencies included in the PDIS, publishes or communicates to any person, other than those authorized by this Act, any information acquired in the course of employment, shall be punished with a fine of Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment for a period of not less than three (3) years, or both, at the discretion of the court;
- c) Being an employee of the government agencies included in the PDIS, publishes or communicates to any person, other than those authorized by this Act, any information acquired in the course of employment with malicious intent or for profit, shall be punished with a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or imprisonment for a period of not less than six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the court;
- d) Directly or indirectly perform an act, whether with malicious intent or for profit, which compromises the integrity of the PDIS shall be punished with a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or imprisonment for a period of not less than (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the court; and
- e) Any group of 3 or more persons, working as a syndicate, perform an act with malicious intent or for profit, which compromises the integrity of the PDIS

shall be punished with a fine of One Million pesos (P1,000,000.00), or imprisonment for a period of not less than ten (10) years, or both, at the discretion of the court;

SEC. 14. Prohibited Administrative Acts. –

- a) Any head of government offices or agencies which are part of the PDIS, or any of its employees, who shall require documents already existing and accessible in the PDIS shall be subjected to sixty (60) days suspension without pay. For repeat offenders, they shall be terminated and barred from government service. No penalty shall be implemented without due process.
- b) Any head of office or agency whose office is found to be a habitual violator of its Citizens' Charter shall be subjected to Sixty (60) days suspension without pay. For repeat offenders, they shall be terminated and barred from government service. No penalty shall be implemented without due process.

SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in consultation with the government agencies and departments included in the PDIS, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

The DICT shall consult with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in establishing the organizational structure of the PDIC.

SEC. 16. Appropriations. – The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to initially implement this Act. It shall be taken from any available funds in the National Treasury of the current fiscal year. For the succeeding fiscal years, the amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 17. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain valid.

SEC. 18. Repealing Clause. – All acts, executive orders, administrative orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.