

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2738



Introduced by: HON. OSCAR G. MALAPITAN

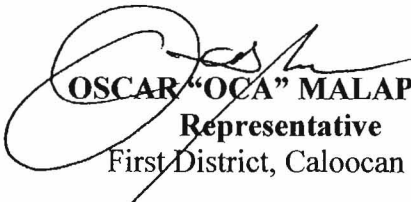
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize the One-Stop Center for Action Responsiveness (OSCAR) in every department and agency of the government. The paramount objective of this important piece of legislation is to improve the delivery of services to the public by minimizing, if not totally eliminating bureaucratic red-tape.

The OSCAR will certainly help synchronize the operation of existing internal government structures to achieve maximum efficiency in the disposition of requests. Basically, it will serve as one-stop shop or centralized facilitating office that will accept, process and dispose of application for certification, clearance, license, permit and other forms of requests for documentation. Moreover, the establishment of OSCAR will not entail additional expenses on the part of the government as the Secretary or head of agency will only utilize non-performing human assets in their respective offices.

It is worthy to mention that the present administration under the able leadership of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had already established one-stop action center in certain departments and agencies of the government. Such one-stop shops had significantly reduced the processing period of documents in such agencies as the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and this must be replicated in all government departments and agencies for the benefit of the transacting public.

In order to ensure that this system will be institutionalized, the approval of this bill earnestly sought.


OSCAR "OCA" MALAPITAN
Representative
First District, Caloocan City

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AN ACT
TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE ONE-STOP CENTER FOR ACTION
RESPONSIVENESS (OSCAR) IN EVERY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OF
THE GOVERNMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Establishment. – There shall be established a *One-Stop Center for Action Responsiveness*, hereinafter referred to as **OSCAR**, in every Department or Agency of the Government.

The Department Secretary or Head of Agency is hereby directed to create their respective OSCAR and to designate facilitation officers bestowed with sufficient authority, to the extent allowed by law, to accept, process and dispose of applications for certification, license, permit, clearance and other forms of documentation.

SEC. 2. Definition. – As used in this Act, the term Department or Agency shall refer to Department and Agency as defined under Section 2 of Executive Order No. 292 otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987.

SEC. 3. Processing of Application; Procedure. – (a) Where the documentary requirements are complete, a department or agency shall accept the application and shall promptly process the same. However, where the documentary requirements are incomplete, a department or agency may refuse to accept the application: Provided, That the said department or agency shall issue a written notice to the applicant indicating the documentary requirements which are lacking.

(b) Upon determination that the application is meritorious, the department or agency shall promptly issue the license, permit, clearance and other forms of documentation. However, if the application is found not to be meritorious, the department or agency shall promptly issue a written decision or order denying the application clearly stating all grounds therefor.

(c) Within the time period prescribed by the Secretary of Head of Agency, the facilitation officers of the agencies concerned shall dispose of the application by:

- (i) Issuing the certification, clearance, license, permit or other forms of documentary requirement requested; or
- (ii) Issuing a written decision or order denying the application

Where an application is opposed, the agency shall promptly determine whether said opposition is based on valid grounds and in the affirmative, proceed to resolve the dispute with notice to the applicant and dispose of the application: Provided, That the period for resolving the dispute shall be counted against the department or agency.

SEC. 4. *Affidavit In Lieu of Certification, Clearance, License, Permit and Other Forms of Documentation.* – Where the facilitation officer of the department or agency concerned fails or refuses to dispose of the application within the prescribed period, the applicant may, unless expressly prohibited by law, submit an affidavit, with supporting technical studies and documents by complete individuals, in lieu of the Certification, Clearance, License, Permit and Other Forms of Documentation.

SEC. 5. *Sanctions* – In case the facilitation officer of the department or agency concerned fails or refuses to dispose of the application within the prescribed period, said officer shall, in accordance with the Civil Service Laws, rules and regulations, be liable for administrative sanctions as may be provided for under the implementing rules and regulations under this Act.

SEC. 6. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Department and Head Agency shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Effectively Clause.* – This Act shall take effect upon approval of this Act.

Approved,

