

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY**

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

H.B. No. 131

Introduced by **HON. AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

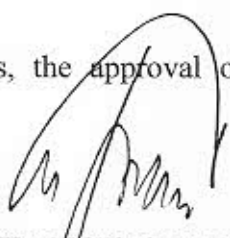
This bill seeks to institutionalize a national voluntary information personal card to be known by its acronym "VIP card" in order to facilitate and streamline governmental transactions, cut red tape and increase productivity.

The idea of a national identification system has been time and again proposed in Congress. Indeed, the benefits of a unified information system to the country and its citizens are limited only by one's imagination. However, this proposal, though how novel and noble its purposes are, has always been met with stiff opposition especially from human rights groups and other similar organizations fearing that this might be used by the state to violate the rights of individuals.

To assuage these fears, this measure simply proposes the issuance of an identification card on a voluntary basis. Only those persons who want to avail of such card can enjoy its benefits instead of requiring and/or making such system compulsory to everybody. Likewise, this bill shall ensure that any information under the system will not be made available to third parties or entities but only under certain exceptional circumstances. Moreover, any information given in the system shall be considered as privilege and can not be used as evidence against the holder thereof in any criminal proceedings. It is hope that, with the inclusion of these safety mechanisms in the bill, the fears of certain sectors that this identification system will be used by the state to blackmail its citizens will be addressed. Likewise, to encourage mass-based participation in this system and increase government revenues, the National Statistics Office, which shall be the implementing arm of this measure, is also authorized to enter into any arrangements or agreements with the private sector for the purpose of giving special privileges, discounts or other benefits to card holders.

Finally, this information card shall serve more as a protection for its holder than as an ordinary identification card. The use of this card will protect, secure and/or save the holder from red tape in the government bureaucracy, unnecessary harassments, wastage of time and from death or permanent injuries in case of accidents and/or disasters. Thus, because such card will ultimately serve to protect its holder, it is but appropriate that it be named as the Voluntary Information Personal Card or commonly known as "VIP Card."

In view of the foregoing considerations, the approval of this bill is highly recommended.


AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA
2nd District, Albay

Introduced by **HON. AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA**

**AN ACT OTHERWISE KNOWN AS VOLUNTARY INFORMATION
PERSONAL CARD SYSTEM "VIP" TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE
NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO), APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. There shall be established a national Voluntary Information Personal Card system to be commonly called or known as "VIP Card."

Section 2. All Filipinos and resident aliens of legal age may voluntarily apply and be issued a VIP Card.

Section 3. The VIP Card shall be issued with a permanent serial number, photograph and the following personal data of the holder, to wit:

- a) Name
- b) Residence Address
- c) Date of Birth
- d) Sex
- e) Height and Weight
- f) Nationality
- g) Blood Type
- h) Special Medical Needs, if any, and
- i) Polling precinct and Barangay / Municipality / City/ Province

Section 4. Any qualified person who wish to avail of the VIP Card shall apply and register with the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of the municipality or city where he or she is located for a minimal fee of Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00). The VIP Card shall have a validity of five (5) years and any subsequent renewals thereof shall have a fee of One Hundred Fifty (Php 150.00) for a similar period of five (5) years.

Section 5. The funds generated by the VIP Card shall be used exclusively to establish and upgrade its computerization and on-line systems to be implemented by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in coordination with all other government agencies, including local government units, concerned.

Section 6. The NSO shall prepare the application form of the VIP Card which shall contain, among others, the name, age, birth, status, name of spouse, name of parents, residence, and if a registered voter, the barangay and polling precinct, and such other relevant information and/or supporting papers as may be necessary and required by the NSO. Any and all information provided in the application shall be under oath.

Section 7. The VIP Card 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. transactions with any government agency;
- b. application for passport and driver's license;
- c. 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);
- d. proof of identity, status, age and address for admission in all schools, colleges, learning institutions, and/or colleges and universities as well as for employment purposes;
- e. availment of benefits or privileges afforded by law to senior citizens;
- f. proof of identity, status, age and address in banking and financial institutions;
- g. application for National Bureau of Investigation clearance, fiscal and police clearance;
- h. voting identification purposes;
- i. employees' identification card with respect to government employees;
- j. Such other purpose and uses which the NSO may from time to time prescribe.

Section 8. Any and all information given by the holder in connection to, or in relation to the issuance of the VIP Card shall be deemed inadmissible in any criminal proceedings against the holder.

Section 9. 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 VIP Card, including the use thereof except in the following cases:

- a) When the holder of the VIP card expressly authorizes such person, entity or agency to procure such information;
- b) In the event of accident, disaster or fortuitous events, when information on medical history of the holder such as the blood type or special medical needs or other relevant information are needed by medical and/or health workers; and
- c) Order of the Court

Section 10. Any person who files an application for the registration and issuance of the VIP Card containing statements known to him to be false, or who procure registration and issuance of an identification card other than his own shall be punished by a fine of Ten Thousand (Php10,000.00) or imprisonment of one (1) year at the discretion of the court.

Section 11. Any person who procures or obtain information from the application of VIP Card holder or from information contained in the VIP Card and cause the same to be published, disseminated or given to third persons, parties or entities in violation of Section 9 hereof, shall be punished by a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php500,000) or imprisonment of six (6) years, at the discretion of the court. In case the offender is a public officer or an element of the Philippine National Police or the Armed Forces of the Philippines, such offender shall be dismissed from service with forfeiture of all benefits and emoluments and shall be perpetually barred from holding public office.

Section 12. The NSO shall promulgate such rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. It is likewise authorized to enter into any arrangements and/or agreements with the private sector for the purpose of granting additional privileges or benefits to VIP Card holders in order to increase the number of holders and promote the wide usage of the same.

Section 13. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged to the budget of the NSO for the current year. Thereafter, the necessary sum for the implementation for this Act shall be provided in subsequent General Appropriation Acts.

Section 14. Any provisions of law, rules and regulations contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed modified and/or repealed accordingly.

Section 15. This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.