

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 241

INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN PEDRO P. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill proposes to provide a "Filipino ID" for our citizenry. At present, there are a lot of government agencies issuing identification cards such as the SSS, GSIS, PRC, LTO and others. However, an estimated 60% of our citizens of legal age do not have a valid identification card which can show proof of their identity when dealing with government agencies and private institutions.

Even, the banking industry is requiring at least three (3) valid identification cards for persons transacting with the banks. Airlines and shipping companies require their passengers to show a valid I.D. before they are allowed entry to their premises. Most of our constituents who are working in the underground economy, underemployed unemployed, out of school youths, members of the older sector, fishermen and farmers neither hold valid identification cards nor a community tax certificate. They cannot afford to secure a postal i.d. or even apply for a regular passport, which are considered valid id's by almost all establishments.

It is the intent of this bill to solve the I.D. problems of our citizenry through this proposed measure. This is a lifetime I.D. which will be proudly used by the citizens in various transactions mentioned in the bill. We can truly say that we can be proud of our identity as a nation and as a Filipino people with this "Filipino I.D.".

This identification card will be issued free and the pertinent data can be updated every five (5) years by the holder. It will be issued by the National Statistics Office which is the repository of our official civil registry documents and can attest to the citizenship of a person through his or her birth records.

At present, the National Statistics Office has completed the data conversion of all birth records from 1945-2000. With its conversion, the search and retrieval of the documents will be automated and will result to faster service. We can use this facility to check the citizenship of the applicant through their records.

It is hoped that with the combined experience and expertise of the National Statistics Office – Office of the Civil Registrar General, Department of Foreign Affairs, Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, Philippine Postal Corporation, National Bureau of Investigation, Land Transportation Office, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Philippine Regulations Commission in issuing identification cards it can provide a harmonious scheme to implement this by crafting the implementing rules and regulations that will be consistent with the spirit and true intent of this proposed measure.

The funding requirements as to the printing equipment, its supplies and the unit that will handle the processing of the Citizen's I.D. are also provided in this proposed measure to successfully implement the provisions of this law.

Early approval of this bill is hereby sought.



PEDRO P. ROMUALDO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FILIPINO IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Filipino Identification System Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote our unique identity as a people and provide adequate opportunities for its citizen. To achieve this, a Filipino Identification System is hereby established that will determine our nationality and personal identity. It also aims to improve public administration service and good governance as such all citizens are encouraged to get their Citizen's I.D. which they can use in their daily private and public transactions.

SEC. 3. *Role and Functions of the Office of the Civil Registrar General.* - The Citizen's I.D. will be administered by the National Statistics Office through the Office of the Civil Registrar General which is hereby mandated to determine, validate and issue certificates of citizenship to all Filipino citizens based on the official civil registry documents on their record.

The Office of the Civil Registrar General shall create a special unit which will be responsible for:

- a) accepting all the applications from the city and municipal civil registrars offices and from walk-in clients;
- b) handling the issuance of the Citizen's I.D. ; and
- c) releasing and mailing of the I.D. to the applicant.

SEC. 4. *Who May File the Application and Where.* - All Filipino citizens who have reached the age of majority shall be required to secure a Citizen's Identification card as provided for in this Act.

Those above 18 years old at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall file their respective application within four (4) years from the date of issuance of the implementing guidelines of this Act.

For persons with disabilities and older persons, the Office of the Civil Registrar General and its respective regional, district and municipal offices shall provide a special desk for their applications and may accept applications made through their duly authorized representatives or next of kin.

Existing identification cardholders of SSS, GSIS, PRC License, Driver's License, Passport and Tax identification number, Postal I.D. or NBI Clearance shall file a separate application consolidating all the information on their Citizen ID.

All applications shall be filed before the Municipal or City Civil Registrar or with the National Statistics Office under the Office of the Civil Registrar General.

Duly accomplished applications will be forwarded to the Office of the Office of the Civil Registrar General within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof. The Office of the Civil Registrar General shall thereafter release the Citizen Id by mail service not later than sixty (60) days from the date of receipt of said applications from the Municipal or City Registrar's Office .

SEC. 5. Features of the Citizen's I.D. - The citizen's ID shall contain the personal circumstances of the bearer and such information as may be deemed appropriate by the implementing agency. For applicants with pre-existing government issued identification cards, it must include important details which can be handily used as reference in their various public and private transactions.

Each identification cardholder shall be assigned a permanent number which shall be non-transferable and valid till the lifetime of the holder.

The Citizen's I.D. shall be tamper-proof using available modern security technology in the market.

The application and issuance of the Citizen's I.D. shall be free of charge to the applicant as part of the government social service responsibility to its citizenry.

SEC. 6. When Required to be Presented. - The citizen's ID card Act shall only be required to be presented in the following transactions or performs the following acts:

- a) Acknowledges any document before a Notary Public;
- b) Takes an Oath of Office upon election or appointment to any position in the government service;
- c) Applies for and receives any license, certificate or permit from any public authority;
- d) Applies for a passport from the Department of Foreign Affairs;
- e) Registering at the Commission on Elections;
- f) Applies a Security-Coded Birth Certificate with the National Statistics Office;
- g) Pays any tax or fee and receives any money from any public fund;
- h) Enters into any other transaction with a government or private agency;

SEC. 7. Safeguards on the Citizen I.D. - The Office of the Civil Registrar General as repository of the data and issuing authority of the tamper-proof citizen I.D. shall institute the necessary measures to safeguard the information otherwise adequate sanctions will be imposed to those who violate the provisions of this Act.

No such information shall be released to any agency, office or instrumentality, government or otherwise, nor shall the same be used against any person, without lawful order of the court. Any information secured in violation of the immediately preceding prohibition shall be inadmissible in evidence in any proceeding and for any purpose.

Provided, however, that for purposes of ascertaining the authenticity of the Citizen's I.D. , the Office of the Civil Registrar General can issue a Certificate to attest to the issuance of such I.D. stating the name of the person and its corresponding control number.

SEC. 8. *Penalty Clause.* - Any person who knowingly uses false information in applying for the issuance of a citizen ID or procures a card through fraud or who utilizes the card in an unlawful manner, shall be punished with a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P\5,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P\ 500,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year, or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Any public official or employee who connives with the offender in committing the acts mentioned in the preceding paragraph, or, on his own, causes the issuance of an Identification card 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 preceding paragraph and shall also be dismissed from government service.

The penalties in this Section shall be imposed in addition to those provided for acts and omissions punished by existing penal and other laws.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the creation of the special unit under the Office of the Civil Registrar General including personnel salaries and benefits will be included in the regular appropriations of this agency for the succeeding year after the approval of this Act.

For the consultation requirements and advertising of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations, the Office of the Civil Registrar General can utilize five (5%) of their regular income from operations for this purpose.

The appropriation requirements for the Citizen's I.D. printing equipment and supplies as well as maintenance requirement shall be taken from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation as approved by the Department of Budget and Management.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Office of the Civil Registrar General in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, National Bureau of Investigation, Land Transportation Office, Professional Regulations Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Philippine Postal Service shall draft the implementing guidelines of this Act. It shall also draft the design and safeguards for the Citizen's I.D. which will truly depict our identity as a citizen of the Philippines.

The Office of the Civil Registrar General shall invite pertinent groups to assist them in the drafting of the rules and regulations.

The implementing guidelines shall become effective and in full force only after simultaneous publication in three (3) national newspapers of general circulation and in one (1) local daily newspaper in each province.

SEC. 11. *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. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately after its official publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,