

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 276

Introduced by HONORABLE JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Different government agencies maintain their respective database and information in the pursuit of their mandate to provide basic services and social security to the public or in the exercise of their regulatory function. This function also necessitates the issuance of various reference numbers to those who transact with these agencies. Consequently, an ordinary citizen would have various numbers issued to him by the Social Security System (SSS), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), PhilHealth, Commission on Elections (COMELEC), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Postal Corporation (PPC), and other government agencies. Keeping track of these numbers would be too tedious for the ordinary citizen. This also spells inefficiency and red tape for the government.

This bill seeks to address this problem and expedite dealings with the different government by harmonizing the existing database and information system of different government agencies. The SSS, for instance, has a total membership of about 25 million. Each member is issued his own number for the purpose of transacting with the SSS. The NSO, on the other hand, has about 80 million persons registered in its records. Those persons holding SSS numbers are also the persons registered with the NSO.

Studies reveal that despite government efforts to make our country attractive to investments and to ensure fast and efficient delivery of basic social services, our government's operating efficiency and performance continue to be hampered by tedious transactions. Bureaucratic red tape is the source of many ills in our government: inefficiency, irresponsiveness to needs of people, and graft and corruption.

This proposed measure, which will consolidate all existing government-initiated identification systems in one integrated and multi-purpose system without compromising our citizens' right to privacy, will facilitate speedy, accurate, and simplified processes and procedures of transacting with the government.

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



JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

Introduced by Honorable JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE EXPEDIENCY AND EFFICIENCY IN DEALING WITH
GOVERNMENT, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A HARMONIZED DATABASE
SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as *"The Ease of Dealing with Government Act of 2010."*

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the State to ensure efficiency in the bureaucracy by simplifying processes and procedures in transacting with the government consistent with the rights of citizens to privacy and equal protection of the laws.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. The following terms as used in this Act shall refer to:

- a) *National Reference Number* - The Population Reference Number assigned and issued by the National Statistics Office to a citizen or permanent resident of the Philippines;
- b) *NSO* - The National Statistics Office;
- c) *SSS* - The Social Security System;
- d) *Data* - The name, address, date of birth, gender, and other personal circumstances of the person to whom a National Reference Number was issued, all of which are encoded therein and kept strictly confidential in the records of the National Statistics Office;
- e) *Agencies Concerned* - These agencies shall **refer** to all agencies issuing identification cards to citizens such as, but not limited to, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Commission on Elections (COMELEC), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Postal Corporation (PhilPost).

SEC. 4. *Harmonization of Government Identification System.* There is hereby established a Harmonized Reference System to cross reference all government identification numbers. This shall be created by mandating all government agencies to harmonize into one National Reference Number to be assigned to each person so that eventually all information from all concerned agencies pertaining to the same person shall be embodied in the National Reference Number.

The National Statistics Office, in consultation with other agencies concerned, shall design and implement a system wherein a National Reference Number shall be assigned to one person and shall include all the information included in the database of all the government agencies concerned.

The government agencies concerned shall agree among themselves the information which shall be represented by the National Reference Number assigned to each person and the format thereof. The National Reference Number may contain numbers representing specific information that can identify the person to whom it may have been assigned or information pertaining to a specific agency.

SEC. 5. *Operationalization.* The database system of the National Statistics Office shall be the core database of the Harmonized Reference System. The records of the SSS shall then be harmonized with the NSO database. The process of harmonizing the NSO database and SSS records shall be implemented within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act.

Thereafter, all information from other agencies shall be harmonized. Complete harmonization shall be made within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Confidentiality.* Any data or information pertaining to each record as referred to by the Harmonized Reference Number shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person or used by any person for any purpose. Violation of this provision shall warrant the imposition of the penalty of imprisonment for not more than four (4) years and/or perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

SEC. 7. *Access to Database.* Each agency shall have access limited only to the information relevant to its function. The NSO, in consultation with the other government agencies shall establish a system wherein agencies may be allowed access to database of other agency when necessary. Any person who shall access any information without proper authorization shall be liable for imprisonment for not more than six (6) months and/or perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

SEC. 8. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* To oversee the proper implementation of this Act, there is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee composed of three (3) members from the Senate and three (3) members from the House of Representatives

designated by the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively; *Provided*, That of the three (3) members to be designated by each House of Congress, two (2) of them shall come from the majority and one (1) from the minority.

SEC. 9. Appropriation. The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, as operating funds for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such funds sufficient to fully carry out the purposes of this Act shall be appropriated for every participating agency every fiscal year in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. Any portion or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and administrative regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,