

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **425**



Introduced by *Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the saying goes, 'crime cannot be committed without a witness'.

Offhand, a Closed Circuit Television Camera (CCTV) is a mere tool in case a crime was committed without a viable or willing witness at the scene and at the time that it happened.

Thus, to make it more relevant, the CCTV shall also be manned by someone whose responsibility it is to report to the nearest police station that a crime is being committed before the perpetrators could go Scot free.

Now, since the PNP plays forefront advocate of CCTV as a tool to run after lawless or criminal elements that attack banks, malls, shops and other business establishments, it is therefore better taken to task.

PNP should make itself available around-the-clock to receive calls and in fact, to have a quick-reaction-team at any time in the day in case a form of siege is actually being committed. This way this whole proposal to require every business establishment to install a CCTV in its place of operation can only find meaning.

Under this Act, the local police station or 'police at the block' must make available all sorts of links with every business establishment within its territorial jurisdiction in order to properly implement the provisions of this proposed bill. Absent these, even if every business establishment has CCTV installed, it cannot be fully utilized if and when a link in the chain is broken, as if it were.

On its own, the central PNP headquarters can coordinate with any of the giant telecommunication companies to avail of a facility or service that would facilitate every install call for police intervention from any business establishment in need of the same. Meantime, every local government unit (LGU) may issue a pertinent ordinance requiring every business establishment to install a CCTV in its place of business operation.

In case, such business establishment opts to waive this requirement, then an official waiver should be on its business records with the effect that it likewise has waived its rights for police protection and right to be indemnified in accordance with applicable laws.


WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
REQUIRING EVERY MAJOR BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT LOCATED IN CENTRAL
OR CORE BUSINESS DISTRICT OR AREA, ON COMPULSORY BASIS, TO INSTALL
IN ITS PLACE OF BUSINESS OPERATION, A CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION
CAMERA AND EVERY MINOR BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT, ON OPTIONAL BASIS
AND PRESCRIBING EFFECTIVE GUIDELINES THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Closed Circuit Television Camera Requirement Act of 2013".

SEC. 2 Under this Act, every major business establishment especially that located in central and core business district or area is hereby required to install, on compulsory basis, a Closed Circuit Television Camera.

However, every minor business establishment may waive this requirement by filing appropriate waiver to this effect without prejudice to other minor business establishments that opt to install their own CCTV or similar video surveillance equipment.

SEC. 3 To effectively implement the provisions of this Act, the central police headquarters may formulate rules, regulations, policies, and accreditation scheme that would technologically link its local police station with every business establishment within its territorial jurisdiction.

Such system of accreditation enrolls such business establishment for the privilege to avail of immediate intervention or action from the police without prejudice to those non-accredited business establishments asking for protection.

SEC. 4. The Business Permits and Licensing Office in every municipality, town or city shall require CCTV as part of the requirements for registering a business or renewing its business license only in so far as major business establishments are concerned and minor business establishments may apply for waiver.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,