

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8321



Introduced by **Representative Manuel Luis T. Lopez**

AN ACT

MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTHCARE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN ALL MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE HEALTHCARE INFORMATION RECORD CENTER UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the middle of a pandemic, the importance of an effective and sustainable management system for medical service providers becomes evident. With thousands of new COVID-19 cases daily, more and more of our hospitals reach full capacity and our healthcare providers become overworked.

The proposed measure aims to contribute to strengthening the healthcare management systems in the country by integrating information and communications technology in the collection, storage, retrieval, and exchange of patient healthcare information. By mandating the establishment of a Healthcare Information Management System that will digitize paper charts and other patient healthcare information in hospitals and clinics, this bill aims to, firstly, lighten the manual work of our medical service providers and, secondly, to improve overall patient care.

An electronic-based healthcare information system will streamline the process of admission, consultation, and even diagnosis in hospitals and clinics. It will also reduce errors in the recording of patient healthcare information. This system will likewise enable medical service providers and even patients to easily access healthcare information, especially in times of emergency.

It is in these precarious times that we, as legislators, should continue to explore ways to support and capacitate our medical service providers and to improve patient care for our fellow Filipinos. As we continue to hold the ropes for our modern day heroes in the medical profession, I urge my fellow legislators to ensure the urgent passage of this bill.


HON. MANUEL LUIS T. LOPEZ
Representative
1st District, City of Manila

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Electronic Healthcare*
2 *Information Act of 2020*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared policy of the State to adopt an
5 integrated and comprehensive approach to health development by utilizing Information
6 and Communications Technology in strengthening the management capacity of medical
7 service providers and improving patient care. Towards this end, the State shall ensure
8 that medical service providers have an efficient, secured, and reliable system for
9 electronic healthcare information and that patients can easily access this information in
10 times of emergency.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purpose of this Act, the following terms shall
13 mean:

14
15 1) *Electronic Healthcare Information* – shall refer to an electronic document
16 containing the medical background, history, and such other relevant
17 healthcare information of a patient.

18
19 2) *Medical Service Providers* – shall refer to all medical practitioners, hospitals,
20 clinics, centers, and other similar institutions that provide medical care service
21 and assistance.

22
23 3) *Medical Practitioners* – shall refer to licensed physicians.

24
25 4) *Department* – shall refer to the Department of Health.

5) *Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)* – shall refer to the technology for establishing secure transactions and transmissions of data through mutual authentication, data encryption, and data integrity.

6) *128-bit Encryption* – shall refer to a secure data or file encryption technique that uses a 128-bit key to encrypt and decrypt data or files.

SEC. 4. Establishment of an Healthcare Information Management System. – All provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, all medical service providers are mandated to establish an Healthcare Information Management System, hereinafter referred to as System, that will enable medical service providers to collect, store, retrieve, and exchange patient healthcare information efficiently and securely and will improve overall patient care. All existing healthcare information are hereby required to be converted into electronic formats and uploaded in the System. After the effectivity of this Act, all new healthcare information should be recorded and uploaded in the System on a regular basis.

Provided, that, all medical service providers may elect to keep their existing physical or electronic healthcare information system in addition to the new Healthcare Information Records System. *Provided, further that,* medical service providers shall likewise maintain an electronic backup database for all their healthcare information.

SEC. 5. Establishment of the Healthcare Information Records Center. – There shall be created an Healthcare Information Record Center, hereinafter referred to as Center, to be placed under the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health. The Center shall serve as a hub of all databanks of medical records and other pertinent information significant to the patient's medical history.

The Center shall generate specialized software to be distributed and used as the standard platform for the maintenance, updating, uploading, and accessing electronic medical records.

The Center shall enforce strict compliance with the uploading and updating of electronic medical records as provided for in this Act.

SEC. 6. Accessing Healthcare Information. – Patients are entitled to access and secure a copy of their electronic healthcare information. For this purpose, medical service providers shall ensure that electronic healthcare information are created in a generic and easily readable electronic format. Moreover, medical service providers should ensure that a patient's electronic healthcare information is easily exportable through the patient's portable storage device such as a USB flash drive or optical discs such as compact discs (CDs) and digital versatile discs (DVDs), or through electronic mail.

SEC. 7. Security Features. – In order to assure the privacy of all medical records, electronic communications, and transactions, all Healthcare Information Management Systems shall use a 128-bit encryption or a more secured Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology.

1 The security features of all Healthcare Information Management Systems shall
2 likewise comply with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8792, also known as the
3 Electronic Commerce Law of 2000, and Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the
4 Data Privacy Act of 2012.

5
6 **SEC. 8. *Funding.*** – There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the
7 implementation of this Act the amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00) for the
8 initial operations of the Healthcare Information Records Center as an attached agency of
9 the Department. Thereafter, such amount needed to implement this Act shall be included
10 in the Annual Appropriations Act of the Department.

11
12 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department shall create a
13 special committee to draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) governing this
14 Act. Within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act, the special committee shall
15 submit the IRR to the Secretary of the Department who shall approve it within thirty (30)
16 days.

17
18 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act
19 is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
20 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

21
22 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, or orders inconsistent with the
23 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

24
25 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect upon completion of its
26 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

27
28 Approved,