Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

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HOUSE BILL NO. 10515

Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CENTRALIZED DATABASE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior Citizens are granted with high regard in Filipino society, with the Philippine Government actively pursuing policies that grant rights and other privileges that would greatly benefit the sector, which include discounts in the purchase of goods such as groceries and medicines. To avail of such discounts, our elderly are required to bring the necessary documents, such as relevant "booklets", for regulatory and monitoring purposes.

The reality, however, is that many elderly forget about these documentary requirements, without which business establishments can refuse or deny the discounts being sought. In some occasions, seniors often go back home, no matter how far, just to avail of the discounts. Moreover, online businesses are not uniform in implementing discounts for online purchases. For those that do, "booklets" or other necessary requirements need to be uploaded—a burden, considering that many senior citizens are not tech-savvy, more so own phones with high-resolution cameras for clear documentary submissions.

Digitalization and internet connectivity must be harnessed to address the above issue. Through the creation of a centralized database of senior citizens which shall be accessible to merchants, provided with the highest standards of data privacy and protection, senior citizens are unencumbered of the need to always bring "booklets". Additionally, cutting the need to print

"booklets" is a more environmentally-friendly option, which in turn also frees up budget space that may now be allocated to other programs.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the Bill is earnestly sought.

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title*. This Act shall be known as the "Senior Citizens Database Act".

SECTION 2. *Establishment of a Centralized Database for Senior Citizens*. A centralized database for senior citizens shall be established, maintained and managed by the National Commission of Senior Citizens (Commission) in cooperation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The database, which shall be accessible to merchants, shall be used to digitally record the kind of medicine or basic or essential commodities purchased, the quantity and price, the date of the transaction, and the establishment where the same has been purchased. The database shall be utilized in lieu of the purchase slip booklet, the usage of which shall be discontinued as a mandatory requirement for the availment of the senior citizens discount.

The database and any information contained therein shall only be accessed by authorized personnel in line with the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Penalty for Violation of the Confidentiality or Integrity of the Records in the Database*. Any person who, by virtue of employment or official position, shall knowingly and willfully commits any of the following acts shall suffer the penalty of four (4) years and one (1) day of imprisonment or a fine not more than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php300,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court:

(a) unauthorized access to and improper use of any information contained in the database system; or

(b) disclosure in any manner of any information found or contained in the database to any person or agency not legally entitled to receive it to the prejudice and detriment of the public or person from whom the said information was taken; or

(c) tampering, altering or making any false entry in the database, including destroying, concealing, removing or otherwise impairing the verity or availability of the database without authority.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the DICT, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations*. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current year's appropriation of the Commission. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause*. All existing laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved,