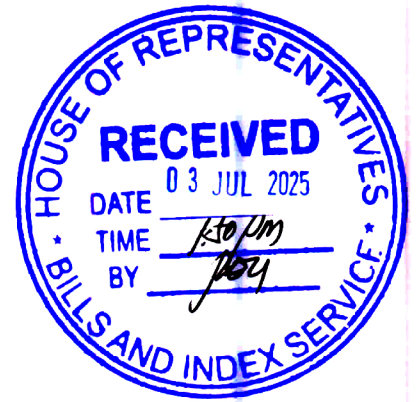


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1259**



Introduced by Representative **MARCELINO R. TEODORO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people,” while Section 5 affirms that “the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.”

In support of these constitutional mandates, the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems has emerged as one of the most effective tools for promoting peace, public safety, and crime prevention. CCTV footage plays a vital role in deterring, detecting, and solving crimes, as well as enhancing the security of business establishments and public areas.

However, while CCTV technology strengthens law enforcement and community safety, its operation must strictly adhere to the constitutional right to privacy.

In recognition of this, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular No. 2022-060 requiring cities and capital towns to mandate CCTV installation in business establishments. Likewise, the National Privacy Commission (NPC) issued NPC Circular No. 2024-02, providing detailed guidelines for the use of CCTV systems in public and semi-public areas by personal information controllers and processors.

This bill seeks to harmonize existing regulations and local ordinances by institutionalizing clear legal standards for the lawful installation, operation, and regulation of CCTV systems. It defines prohibited acts, prescribes procedures for access, disclosure, and preservation of recordings, and imposes penalties for violations.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


MARCELINO R. TEODORO
Representative
First District, Marikina City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL No. **1259**

Introduced by Representative **MARCELINO R. TEODORO**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF CLOSED-CIRCUIT
TELEVISION (CCTV) SYSTEMS AS A MEANS TO DETER CRIME,
ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR INSTALLATION, RECORDING, AND
ACCESS THERETO, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title*– This Act shall be known as the “Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Systems for Crime Prevention Act”.

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of its people, to maintain peace and order, to protect life, liberty, and property, and to promote the general welfare. For this purpose, the State shall establish laws and guidelines to ensure the protection, safety, and welfare of its people against criminal activities by mandating the installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems in public, private and residential establishments, with due regard to the privacy and rights of every individual as provided under the Constitution and Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

Sec. 3. - *Definition of Terms* – As used in this Act:

- a) *Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) System* refers to the use of video cameras to transmit a signal to a specific place, on a set of monitors or television system that transmits images on a “closed loop” basis, where images are only available to those directly connected to the transmission system;
- b) *CCTV Operator* refers to a person or persons authorized and responsible for watching and controlling the recording of pictures and videos captured by a CCTV camera;
- c) *Data Subject* refers to an individual who is the subject of a CCTV camera footage, video, photo, or whose personal, sensitive personal, or privileged information is processed by a business establishment;

- d) *Images* refer to recorded images in the CCTV cameras;
- e) *Persons in Authority* refer any person directly vested with jurisdiction or authority to enforce or execute laws and regulations, such as elements of the Philippine National Police or the National Bureau of Investigation, or the Barangay Chairperson and Barangay Tanod;
- f) *Private Installations* refer to CCTV cameras installed in private establishments that are accessible to the public at certain hours of the day, such as private subdivisions, condominiums and other residential areas, banks and other financial establishments, educational institutions, hospitals, dining establishments, business hubs, malls, shopping centers, and similar places;
- g) *Public Installations* refer to CCTV cameras installed in public places such as government offices and instrumentalities, parks and plazas, alleyways, streets and highways, public markets, airports and public transport terminals;
- h) *Video Surveillance* refers to a CCTV system for direct visual monitoring and/or recording of activities on the premises or in a specific place.

Sec. 4. *Public and Private Installation of CCTV Systems* – The installation of CCTV systems shall be mandatory in public places and in private establishments nationwide that are accessible to or frequented by the public: *Provided, That* CCTV cameras shall be installed in strategic areas so as to capture footage of possible crimes or untoward incidents that may occur: *Provided, further, That* CCTV cameras shall not be directed at areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

The installation of CCTV systems shall be a requirement in the issuance of business permits to establishments catering to a considerable number of customers or clientele, or conducting transactions and operations which carry risks of being targeted by criminal activity, as well as to those establishments that are prone to accidents, natural disasters, and other unforeseen incidents.

This Act shall apply to the installation and operation of CCTV systems in places within residential areas such as private subdivisions and condominiums, and places within academic institutions and other common areas where there is public access.

Sec. 5. *Guidelines for the Installation and Operation of CCTV Systems* – The following guidelines shall be strictly observed in the installation and operation of CCTV systems:

- a) The CCTV systems shall at all times be operated with due regard to the right to privacy and the right to conduct or engage in lawful activities;
- b) Public installation of CCTV systems shall function as an instrument for law enforcement and crime prevention;
- c) The CCTV cameras shall be operated as a crime deterrent for the purpose of mobilizing a quick and adequate response unit from the persons in authority.
- d) Public installation of CCTV systems shall enable the viewing of a wider range of data images on motorists, pedestrians and critical thoroughfares, to provide

quicker apprehension of road safety violators and pinpoint causes of traffic build-up; and

- e) Private installation of CCTV systems shall function as a tool for video surveillance allowing security personnel of private areas and establishments to monitor the premises and ensure the safety and security of individuals and private properties.

Sec. 6. *Persons Responsible* – In the case of government offices and public buildings, the Head of Office shall be the person responsible for the installation of CCTV systems. With respect to parks, streets, alleyways, and other public places, as well as private places that are accessible to the public, the city or municipal mayor shall be responsible for the installation of the CCTV cameras.

Sec. 7. *Notice of Surveillance* – The fact that surveillance or CCTV cameras have been installed in an area shall be made known to the general public through a written notice prominently displayed at the entrance of the establishment or at a visible area within its premises.

Sec. 8. *Procedure for Access and Disclosure of Recordings* –

Only authorized persons shall have access to the images and recordings from the CCTV cameras. Viewing of the images and recordings shall take place in a restricted area or in private conditions. All access allowed or granted under the circumstances must be documented and for limited or prescribed circumstances.

The access, disclosure, use, viewing, or copying of images and recordings performed in accordance with this Act shall only be allowed in the following circumstances:

1. Upon a written request from a person in authority in connection with and limited to an investigation for the prosecution of an offense punishable by law;
2. Upon lawful order of the court, in connection with a pending criminal or civil proceeding;
3. Upon request of any person whose image has been recorded, with the request for a copy of the recording or its still images made in writing;
4. Upon compliance with the Rules of Procedure set by security agencies operating under the management of clients;
5. When circumstances warrant that law enforcement agencies release the image or recordings from the CCTV to the media to help identify the perpetrator of a crime or locate their whereabouts, or as a matter of public information; and
6. The use, copying or disclosure of images and recordings shall be authorized within twenty-four (24) hours after submission of the request, as herein specified.

Sec. 9. *Prohibited Acts and Recordings* – It shall be unlawful for any person or establishment to perform the following acts:

1. Installation or use of the CCTV cameras on another individual's property or business establishment without consent;
2. Installation or use of CCTV cameras in any restroom, toilet, bathroom, changing room, and other similar areas utilized for private activities;
3. Use of CCTV cameras with a device to record sounds or voices designed to overhear events, conversations or sounds without the express permission of all persons involved;
4. Installation of CCTV cameras in public places without the display of notice of surveillance;
5. Installation of CCTV cameras inside the business premises without due notice to all employees;
6. Installation and use of CCTV cameras as surveillance tools of particular individuals on behalf of or commissioned by third persons with or without compensation or fee;
7. Sale, distribution or publication of any recorded material or still photographs for commercial purposes;
8. Uploading of any images, recordings, or stills from a CCTV camera on the internet for entertainment purposes or without consent of the data subject or business owner, except for the protection of the general public such as to help identify the perpetrator of a crime or locate his whereabouts or as a matter of public information to deter criminal activities.

Sec. 10. *Retention, Storage and Preservation* – Unless otherwise reserved for a specific purpose to review the events of a crime or that the information needs to be studied further for any number of reasons, data of recordings shall not be kept for more than sixty (60) days and should automatically be overwritten or deleted beyond said period.

Sec. 11. *Penalties* – Any act or omission causing the violation of duties ascribed to business establishments shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than six (6) years, or a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or both, without prejudice to any civil or criminal cases that may be filed pursuant to existing laws: *Provided*, That if the offender is a corporation, partnership or any juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the responsible officers, as the case may be.

The business owner and the CCTV operator shall be responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That the business owner and the CCTV operator as the case may be, shall be personally liable for any violation under this Act which was due to their direct participation, lack of supervision, or negligence.

No business permit or permit to operate shall be issued or renewed for the business establishments covered by this Act unless the CCTV cameras as herein specified are installed and fully operational.

For government buildings or public places, the non-installation of CCTV cameras shall be considered as nonfeasance and the officers responsible shall be subject to the penalties provided for under appropriate laws.

Sec. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of National Defense (DND), the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the National Privacy Commission, and in consultation with other appropriate government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

The DICT shall establish and update as necessary the minimum technical specifications for the CCTV cameras and the installation and operation of the CCTV system.

Sec. 13. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

Sec. 14. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with, or contrary to this Act, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 15. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,