



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1588



Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATIONALIZE THE SINGLE TICKET SYSTEM
AND TO CREATE THE TRADE NETWORK OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

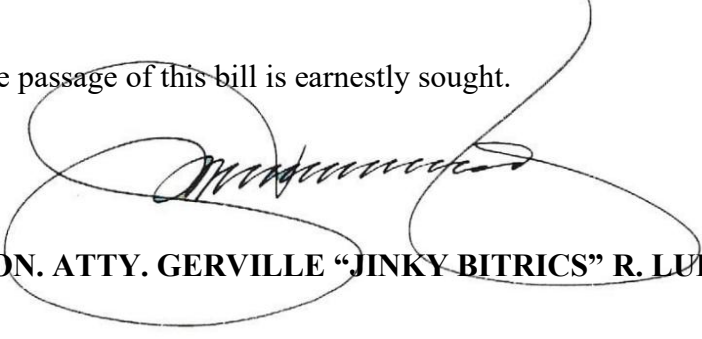
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Trade is a cornerstone of the Philippine economy, driving growth, creating jobs, and fostering innovation. It connects local enterprises to global markets, enabling them to access critical inputs, expand production, and enhance competitiveness. For consumers, trade provides access to a diverse range of goods and services at competitive prices. As a developing nation, the Philippines relies on trade not only to stimulate economic activity but also to strengthen its role in regional and global value chains. However, inefficiencies in trade processes hinder the country's full potential, affecting the ease of doing business and limiting opportunities for economic advancement.

This bill proposes institutionalizing the Single Ticket (ST) System to streamline trade-related procedures. It aims to integrate government processes, reduce redundancy, and enable faster, more efficient transactions. Key provisions include establishing the ST System, creating the Trade Network Office of the Philippines as a government-owned corporation to manage it, ensuring private and public sector representation in its governance, mandating agency compliance, and authorizing reasonable user fees during a transitional phase. Adequate funding is also proposed to ensure smooth implementation.

While the Philippines initiated the ST System in 2005 through Executive Order No. 482, its progress remains limited. Institutionalizing it will align with national goals of bureaucratic efficiency and economic transparency, as outlined in the Marcos administration's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda. With the recent ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), this system will position the Philippines for greater global trade participation by reducing barriers, enhancing transparency, and enabling businesses to thrive in the digital economy.

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



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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Single Ticket Act of 2025".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the declared policy of the State to stimulate trade, investments, economic growth and development by promoting efficiency in the processing of import, export, and transit transactions and complying with its international obligations on trade facilitation under various trade agreements of which the Philippines is a party, including the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, the World Customs Organization Revised Kyoto Convention and the Agreement to Establish and Implement the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Single Window. The state objective shall be achieved under the Act through the development, maintenance, and operation of a Single ticket window System.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — the association for regional countries of Southeast Asia, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam;

- (b) ASEAN Single Window (ASW) — the environment where the Single ticket windows of Member Countries operate and integrate as defined by the ASEAN;
- (c) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) shall mean the totality of electronic means to access, create, collect, store, process, receive, transmit, present and disseminate information as defined in Republic Act No. 10844 or the Department of Information and Communications Technology Act of 2015;
- (d) Single ticket window (ST) — a system that allows parties involved in the international supply chain to lodge data in a standardized format at a single-entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements as defined by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business;
- (e) Office — the Trade Network Office of the Philippines created under this Act;
- (f) Trade Facilitation — the simplification, modernization, and harmonization of import, export, and transit processes as defined by the World Trade Organization;
- (g) Trade Regulatory Government Agencies (TRGAs) — government entities involved in trade categorized as: (i) regulatory - mandated by law to process and issue permits, licenses, certificates, or accreditation prior to the importation or exportation of goods; (ii) monitoring and oversight - use trade data to process statistical reports, trends, profiling, and analysis, among others; (iii) Ecozones — govern special economic zones, trade zones, and free ports; and (iv) policy - provide advisory, legal, and technical inputs for the implementation of the ST and ASW;
- (h) World Customs Organization (WCO) — an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations; and
- (i) World Trade Organization (WTO) — the global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SINGLE TICKET SYSTEM

SECTION 4. Establishment of the System. — There is hereby established an ST System known as the Philippines Trade System which shall be a computerized internet-based system that

shall interconnect government agencies involved in the processing of import and export shipments. The ST System, whose source code shall be owned by the government, shall be configured to allow parties involved in trade to lodge information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. The System shall involve the management of the change process including business process redesign, data harmonization, and improvements to the legal framework to support changes and new modes of operation.

SECTION 5. Objectives of the ST System. — The objective of this Act is to provide an institutional framework and mechanism for the development, operation, and maintenance of a single ticket window system that will promote the:

- (a) Provision of real time trade data;
- (b) Coordination of efforts from TRGAs;
- (c) Streamlining, simplification, and harmonization of trade-related procedures; and
- (d) Consistent implementation of trade processes.

SECTION 6. Services Provided in the ST System. — The ST System shall be concerned with the application and processing of permits, licenses, and clearances for import and export. It shall record the final results of applications, regardless of whether these are approved or rejected, and link them to the Customs system for the validation and verification of importation or exportation. The ST System shall be designed in order to provide the following minimum basic services:

- (a) For general and public users:
 - i. Information catalogue; and
 - ii. Duties and taxes calculator.
- (b) For registered customers:
 - i. Permits and clearance application;
 - ii. Shipment information management and declaration;
 - iii. Documentation management;
 - iv. Single payment portal; and
 - v. User dashboard.
- (c) For agency users:
 - i. Frontline services:
 - 1. Profile management;
 - 2. Processing of request; and
 - 3. Signing and approving.
 - ii. Managerial and supervisory:
 - 1. Monitoring and delegation of task;

2. Financial performance and information audit; and
 3. Public communication.
- (d) Export and import application submission, document routing, and authorization portal:
- i. Issuance of the certificate of origin; and
 - ii. Connection to other export and import facilitation programs.
- (e) Check uploaded information against business registries of government agencies and shipment manifests of customs profiling systems;
- (f) Connection to the ASEAN Single Window and other regional groups for the electronic exchange of information; and
- (g) Such other related and relevant services.

The services provided by the ST System shall be annually reviewed and updated or modified when necessary to ensure their relevance.

IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM

SECTION 7. Creation of the Trade Network once of the Philippines. – To ensure the attainment of the objectives of this Act, there is hereby created a Trade Network Office of the Philippines, which shall be organized within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act. The Office shall be attached to the Office of the President. The corporate powers of the Office shall be vested in a governing board of directors.

The Office shall have the primary functions of developing, operating, and maintaining the ST system, specifically but not limited to:

Development

- (a) Develop and/or acquire the system or module to connect the ST System to the ASW and any enhancements to the trade platform to meet the requirements of the ASW and other single window gateways;
- (b) Procure, acquire, or subscribe, as may be required, the needed software and infrastructure components to ensure a secure and highly available system inclusive of its connectivity to the ASW system;
- (c) Acquire and register relevant intellectual property rights on original works arising from the development of ST System, where practicable;

- (d) Integrate the ST System with relevant government technology services, the ASW Gateway, and other single window gateways as may be prescribed by agreements of which the Philippines is a party;
- (e) Provide and administer ICT facilities inclusive of data center infrastructure, cloud computing environment, network connectivity, database systems, physical servers and storage and cyber security requirements of the ST System;

Operations

- (a) Identify documentary requirements, signatories, certifications, processes, and procedures of TRGAs;
- (b) Streamline trade-related transactions;
- (c) Onboard agencies and roll-out agency modules;
- (d) Ensure that the ST System is operating in accordance with the requirements of applicable laws and international obligations;
- (e) Serve as Secretariat of the ST SC and TWG;
- (f) Report, monitor, and evaluate the implementation and utilization of the ST System relative to other countries' ST Systems.

SECTION 8. Board of Directors. – The corporate powers of the Office shall be exercised by a Board of Directors composed of 10 members, including:

- (a) The Director General of the Office, who shall act as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry;
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Finance;
- (d) The Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology;
- (e) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs;
- (f) The Director of the Philippine Ports Authority; and
- (g) Four (4) representatives from the private sector to be designated by the President, one of which shall act as Co-Chairperson.

SECTION 9. Powers and Functions of the Board. – The Board of the Office shall have the following powers, functions, and duties:

- (a) Provide comprehensive policy guidance for the effective vision and regulation of the ST System;
- (b) Promulgate and prescribe a set of rules and regulations, standards, and guidelines governing the development, operation, and maintenance of the ST system, including:
 - a. The effective, efficient, and economical operations of the Office;
 - b. Coordination with other government agencies; and
 - c. The establishment of fees for the use of the Philippine Trade System;
- (c) Approve contracts and/or agreements that would employ the services of or enter into partnerships with individuals or firms in the implementation of the ST system;

- (d) Enter into public-private partnerships and all other variants allowed under Republic Act No. 6957 as amended by Republic Act No. 7718;
- (e) Approve the organizational structures, qualification standards, staffing pattern and compensation of the newly created Office upon the recommendation of the Director General;
- (f) Approve the annual budget of the Office; and
- (g) Such other acts as may be deemed proper and necessary to carry out and implement the provision of this Act.

SECTION 10. Composition of the Office. – The Office shall be headed by a Director General who shall oversee the day-to-day operations of the Office and shall be assisted by three (3) Deputy Director Generals each for operations, information and communications technology, and policy and management services that shall be appointed by the President.

SECTION 11. Powers and Functions of the Director General and Deputy Directors General. – The Director General and Deputy Director Generals shall be responsible to the Board and shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- (a) Manage and direct all functions and activities of the Office;
- (b) Implement and enforce the policies, programs, standards, guidelines, procedures, decisions, rules and regulations issued, prescribed, or adopted by the Board pursuant to this Act;
- (c) Prepare the agenda for the meeting of the Board, the Office's annual budget, and such other measures and recommendations that may require the approval of the Board;
- (d) Determine the organizational structures, qualification standards, staffing pattern and compensation of the newly created Office in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations;
- (e) Submit within sixty days after the close of each fiscal year an annual report, through the Board to the President of the Philippines; and
- (f) Such other acts as may be deemed and necessary to carry out and implement the provision of this Act.

SECTION 12. Qualifications. – The Director General and the Deputy Directors General shall have proven competence in management particularly in the administration of interoperable systems and projects and/or information and communications technology.

SECTION 13. Term of Office. – The Director General and the Deputy Directors General shall be by the President for a term of five (5) years and shall be eligible for reappointment only once: Provided, That the first Director General shall have a first term of seven (7) years. Appointment to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

SECTION 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - In order to carry out the effective implementation of this Act, the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Finance, and Department of Information and Communications Technology in coordination and cooperation with the government agencies and institutions enumerated in Section 9 hereof, shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations within 120 days after the passage of this Act.

SECTION 15. Transitory Provision. — To ensure continued implementation of the ST, the teams or units from the Department of Finance and Department of Information and Communications Technology shall continue to carry-out its functions until such time that the organizational structure and personnel complement of the Office have been determined and filled up: Provided, that the staff of Department of Finance and Department of Information and Communications Technology shall have the option to be absorbed or transferred laterally to the Office without diminution of their rank, position, salaries and other emoluments once the staffing pattern and plantilla position of the Office has been approved.

SECTION 16. Appropriations. — The initial amount of one billion five hundred million (Php1,500,000,000.00) required for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the Contingent Fund of the President. Appropriations for the succeeding years shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 17. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, ordinances, administrative orders, rules, and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 18. Separability Clause. — Should any provision of this Act be subsequently declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 19. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect after 15 days from its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,