

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1621**



Introduced by Representative KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XI of the Constitution on the Accountability of Public Officers provides in Section 1 that, "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people [and] serve them with utmost [x x x] efficiency." The Code of Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees provides in Section 4: "All government resources and powers of their respective offices must be employed and used efficiently, effectively, honestly and economically, particularly to avoid wastage in public funds and revenues."

In 2018, the Philippine Identification System Act¹ was passed to achieve its declared policy "to establish a single national identification system referred to as the "Philippine Identification System" or the "PhilSys" for all citizens and resident aliens of the Republic of the Philippines to promote seamless delivery of service, to improve the efficiency, transparency, and targeted delivery of public and social services, to enhance administrative governance, to reduce corruption and curtail bureaucratic red tape to avert fraudulent transactions and misrepresentations to strengthen financial inclusion, and to promote ease of doing business."

It was primarily established to "provide a valid proof of identity for all citizens and resident aliens as a means of simplifying public and private transactions. The PhilSys aims to eliminate the need to present other forms of identification when transacting with the government and the private sector, subject to appropriate authentication measures based on a biometric identification system."²

The thorough implementation of the PhilSys ID has been difficult and incomprehensive due to the recent pandemic and logistical challenges. And despite the above pronouncement concerning the objective of PhilSys, certain government agencies and private entities still require multiple forms of identification for particular transactions, practically meaning that each ID, standing alone, is invalid. This unduly burdens the public when such agencies can definitely ensure the integrity, security, and reliability of their government-issued identification cards or documents. This has also brought ordinary

¹ Rep. Act No. 11055

² *Id.*, §3.

Filipinos much difficulty for various reasons—not all have applied for or can acquire a PhilSys ID and not everyone has another valid ID or multiple IDs for instance.

More troubling is the inconsistency in the recognition of certain valid government-issued IDs. Individuals with disabilities, for example, often face significant inconvenience. Unable to obtain a driver's license, which is commonly accepted as a form of identification, they find that their Person-With-Disability (PWD) ID is inexplicably not accepted in the systems of some agencies and private establishments. In extreme cases, individuals may lack the time or resources to apply for the specific identification required by an agency or private business, even though they possess another valid ID duly accepted elsewhere.

To complement the Philippine Identification System Act and to address the absurdity of requiring multiple pieces of identification, this Act mandates that one (1) valid ID is sufficient for all public and private transactions. It aims to eliminate the need for multiple identification documents, ensuring that every person can more easily access services, benefits, and transactions with both government and private entities.

This thus provides a comprehensive list of valid government-issued IDs, mandating their recognition by all branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities, local government units, and agencies of the government, as well as all of the private sector. The Act allows flexibility for other forms of identification deemed sufficient by individual agencies or businesses.

The bill also rationalizes the policy for renewal of PWD IDs, particularly for individuals with permanent and incurable conditions as certified by a physician, ensuring that they are not subjected to unnecessary renewals.

Furthermore, penalties are imposed to prevent the issuance of spurious IDs and their fraudulent use. Data privacy and security is given due protection.

Finally, the Anti-Red Tape Authority, mandated to ensure ease of business among all agencies of the Philippine government, is tasked to monitor and ensure the faithful implementation of this Act.

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



Rep. KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA
3rd District, Province of Cebu

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE SUFFICIENCY OF A SINGLE FORM OF IDENTIFICATION FOR
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS, MANDATING THE RECOGNITION OF
SPECIFIED FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION, RATIONALIZING THE POLICY CONCERNING
PERSON-WITH-DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARDS, PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR, AND OTHER PURPOSES

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 "One Valid ID Law".

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the efficiency and seamless resolution of transactions. Thus, the sufficiency of a single form or one (1) piece of identification (ID) for all public and private transactions is hereby mandated. It is also declared the policy of the State to simplify and streamline identification processes, reduce bureaucratic red tape, and enhance service delivery across all government and private sector entities. In line with this policy, the State shall ensure that all branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities, local government units (LGUs), and agencies of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), as well as the private sector, recognize a standard list of identification documents as valid proof of identity for official transactions.

Section 3. *Recognized Forms of Identification.* - The following forms of identification shall be recognized as valid proof of identity to transact with all branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities, LGUs, and agencies of the government, including GOCCs as well as all private and non-government entities:

- (a) Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) PhilID or PhilSys Digital ID or ePhilID;
- (b) Philippine Passport;
- (c) Driver's License;
- (d) Tax Identification Number (TIN) ID;
- (e) Philippine Postal Corporation ID;

- (f) Voter's ID;
- (g) Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Unified Multi-Purpose Identification (UMID) Card;
- (h) Social Security System (SSS) Card;
- (i) PhilHealth ID;
- (j) Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) ID;
- (k) Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) ID;
- (l) Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) ID;
- (m) Senior Citizen Card;
- (n) Person-With-Disability (PWD) ID;
- (o) Solo Parent ID;
- (p) *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (4Ps) ID;
- (q) Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) ID;
- (r) Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) and Seafarers' Record Book (SRB); and
- (s) Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) or Immigrant Certificate of Registration (ICR)

Section 4. Sufficiency of Only One (1) ID for Transactions; Mandatory Recognition. - No person shall be required to provide more than one (1) piece of identification for any transaction, public or private. All branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities, local government units (LGUs), and agencies of the government, including government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), as well as all private and non-government entities, are hereby mandated to recognize any single form of identification listed under Section 3 as sufficient proof of identity for accessing business, services, benefits, permits, clearances, and other transactions.

Section 5. Other Forms of Identification. - The mandatory recognition provided in the next preceding section is without prejudice to the acceptance of other or secondary identification cards or documents that may be deemed sufficient by any government branch, subdivision, instrumentality, LGU, agency, GOCC, or private or non-government entity under their respective rules, regulations, or policies; *Provided, That*, at all times, only one (1) ID or a single form of identification shall be required for any transaction.

Section 6. Integrity and Reliability of Identification Cards and Documents; Data Privacy and Security. - All government agencies responsible for issuing valid identification cards or documents shall ensure the integrity, security, and reliability of the identification cards or documents issued by them and the data and information stored in the system, database, registry, directory, index, or records concerning such.

Section 7. Emergence of New Form of Identification. - Should another government-issued ID become available after the passage of this Act, the same shall be recognized in the same manner as those provided in Section 3.

Section 8. Exemption of Renewal for PWDs; Lifetime Validity. - PWDs who have been certified by a licensed physician as having a permanent and incurable or otherwise untreatable disability shall be exempt from the periodic renewal of their PWD ID. These PWDs shall be accordingly issued IDs with lifetime validity, which may be renewed in case of loss or significant damage.

Section 9. Role of the Anti-Red Tape Authority. – The Anti-Red Tape Authority established by Rep. Act No. 9485, as amended by Rep. Act No. 11032, shall monitor the operations of the government and ensure the faithful implementation of this Act.

In accordance with Section 7, the Anti-Red Tape Authority shall release a list of recognized forms of identification for mandatory recognition as necessary.

Section 10. Updating of Systems, Processes, Policies, Rules, and/or Regulations. - Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Act, all branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities, LGUs and agencies of the government, including GOCCs as well as all private and non-government entities shall update their respective systems, processes, policies, rules, and/or regulations to reflect the mandatory recognition of the forms of identification outlined in Section 3 of this Act and provide for the sufficiency of any one (1) of them for any transaction.

Section 11. Penalties. - Any person or entity who, without just and sufficient cause, shall refuse to accept, acknowledge and/or recognize the forms of identification provided by this Act or in the updated listings created by the Anti-Red Tape Authority, after due authentication or verification, shall be fined in the amount of five hundred thousand pesos (PHP 500,000.00).

Any person who utilizes government-issued identification cards or documents in an unlawful manner or use the same to commit any fraudulent act or for other unlawful purposes shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years or a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (PHP 50,000.00) but not more than five hundred thousand pesos (PHP 500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

The penalty of three (3) years to six (6) years imprisonment and a fine of one million pesos (PHP 1,000,000.00) to three million pesos (PHP 3,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any offender found guilty of any of the following acts or omissions:

- (a) The willful submission of or causing to be submitted a fictitious name or false information in the application, renewal, or updating of government-issued identification cards or documents by any person;
- (b) The unauthorized printing, preparation, creation, or issuance of government-issued identification cards or documents by any person;
- (c) Willful falsification, mutilation, alteration, or tampering of government-issued identification cards or documents by any person;
- (d) The use of a government-issued identification card or document or unauthorized possession of such, without any reasonable excuse by any person other than the one to whom it was issued or the possession of a fake, falsified, or altered government-issued identification card or document; or
- (e) The willful transfer of a government-issued identification card or document to any other person.

The penalty of six (6) years to ten (10) years imprisonment and a fine of three million pesos (PHP 3,000,000.00) to five million pesos (PHP 5,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any offender found guilty of any of the following acts or omissions:

- (f) Any person who shall collect or use personal data during the authentication or verification process of government-issued identification cards or documents for any purpose other than authentication or verification;
- (g) Any person who shall willfully use or disclose data or information stored in the systems, databases, registries, directories, indexes, or records of government agencies in connection with the issuance of identification cards or documents; or
- (h) Any person, not covered by the succeeding paragraphs and without any authority, who shall access or process data or information stored or processed by government agencies which issue identification cards or documents.

If financial profit resulted from accessing, disclosing, or using the data or information, the guilty person shall, in addition, pay twice the amount gained from such act.

Malicious disclosure of data or information by officials, employees, or agents who have custody of or are responsible for the management or maintenance of the system, database, registry, directory, index, or records related to the identification cards or documents issued by the government agency to which they belong shall be penalized with ten (10) years to fifteen (15) years imprisonment and a fine of five million pesos (PHP 5,000,000.00) to ten million pesos (PHP 10,000,000.00).

If financial profit resulted from such disclosure or processing of the data or information, the guilty person shall, in addition, pay twice the amount gained from such act.

Officials, employees or who have custody of or are responsible for the management or maintenance of the system, database, registry, directory, index, or records related to the identification cards or documents issued by the government agency to which they belong shall be penalized with three (3) years to six (6) years imprisonment and a fine of one million pesos (PHP 1,000,000.00) to three million pesos (PHP 3,000,000.00) if by their own negligence, their system, database, registry, directory, index, or records is/are accessed by unauthorized persons, or the data or information contained therein is processed without any authority from any existing law.

In all instances, if the violation was committed by a government official or employee, the penalty shall include perpetual absolute disqualification from holding any public office or employment in the government, including any GOCCs, and their subsidiaries.

The penalties imposed by this Section shall be in addition to those imposed on acts or omissions punishable by existing penal or other laws.

Section 12. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, administrative orders and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 14. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,