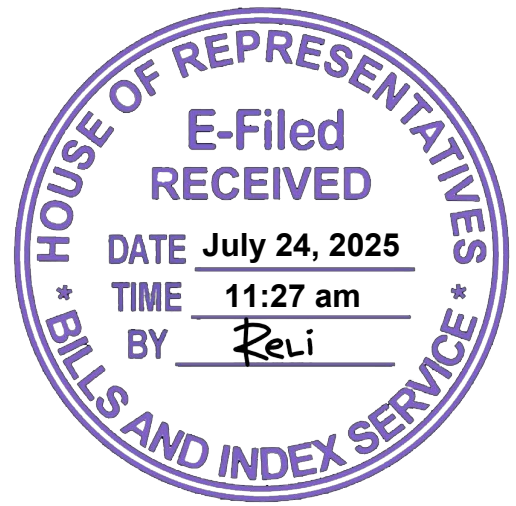


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. **2252**



Introduced by
Rep. ROBERT NAZAL

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE UNIVERSAL AND TIMELY CIVIL REGISTRATION IN
THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH A COMMUNITY-BASED AND
TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED BIRTH REGISTRATION SYSTEM, MANDATING
INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Civil registration, particularly of births, is the cornerstone of legal identity and access to fundamental rights and public services. Despite decades of civil registration initiatives, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reports that approximately 3.7 million Filipinos remain unregistered. This persistent gap is especially pronounced in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), including remote islands, upland barangays, and indigenous and marginalized communities.

The absence of timely birth registration has far-reaching consequences. Without a birth certificate, individuals face barriers to accessing education, healthcare, social protection, and legal employment. It also limits their ability to participate in democratic processes and exercise full citizenship rights.

Current legal frameworks, including Senate Bill No. 408, primarily address the simplification of late registration procedures. While these are valuable efforts, they are inherently reactive. This proposed measure adopts a proactive, preventive, and systems-based approach. It envisions a community-based and technology-enabled birth registration system that brings civil registration services closer to the people, especially in underserved areas. By empowering local government units (LGUs), community health workers, and indigenous leaders, supported by digital tools and mobile registration units, this bill seeks to ensure that birth registration occurs at or near the time of birth.

Further, the bill mandates robust inter-agency coordination, leveraging the capacities of the PSA, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and other relevant institutions. This integrated approach strengthens institutional accountability and ensures data interoperability, accuracy, and timeliness.

In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 16.9, providing legal identity for all, including birth registration, this measure affirms the State's commitment to inclusive governance, human rights, and digital transformation.

By addressing systemic barriers and operational inefficiencies, this bill will help realize the vision of universal and timely civil registration, ensuring that no Filipino is left behind from birth.

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



Rep. ROBERT NAZAL
Representative

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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 “Universal and Timely Birth Registration Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure that every Filipino is granted a legal identity through universal, timely, and accessible civil registration services, regardless of geographical location, socioeconomic condition, or cultural background. The State recognizes that legal identity is fundamental to the enjoyment of human rights, access to basic services, and full participation in society.

In pursuit of this policy, the State shall:

- A. Strengthen and institutionalize mechanisms for the universal and timely registration of births as a foundational public service and legal right;
- B. Leverage digital technologies and interoperable platforms to modernize the civil registration system, improve data accuracy, and expand service delivery to remote and marginalized communities;
- C. Establish and support community-based, health-linked birth registration systems, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), in partnership with barangay units, health institutions, and civil society; and
- D. Promote robust inter-agency collaboration across national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and development partners to ensure a coordinated, inclusive, and rights-based approach to civil registration, leaving no Filipino child undocumented.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.

As used in this Act:

- A. Birth Registration - refers to the official recording of the birth of a person in the civil registry
- B. GIDA - refers to the geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas, as defined by the Department of Health
- C. Community Civil Registrar (CCR) - refers to a trained barangay-based official accredited by the PSA to facilitate on-site registration
- D. Digital Civil Registry System (DCRS) - refers to a secure, cloud-based national registry system managed by the PSA to enable real-time digital registration
- E. Health-Linked Registration - refers to an integrated model where birth notifications are transmitted by health facilities to civil registrars within 24 hours
- F. Unregistered Person - refers to a person whose birth has not been officially recorded with the civil registrar

SECTION 4. UNIVERSAL TIMELY BIRTH REGISTRATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE.

To uphold every Filipino citizen's right to a legal identity, birth registration shall be recognized as a fundamental public service and governed by the following principles:

- A. Birth registration shall be free of charge for all Filipino citizens, regardless of birthplace, socio-economic status, or location;
- B. Birth registration shall be compulsory and completed within thirty (30) days from the date of birth;
- C. Birth registration services shall be readily available and integrated into the operations of all public hospitals, rural health units (RHUs), birthing facilities, and other accredited health institutions;
- D. For births occurring at home or outside health facilities, registration shall be proactively facilitated by barangay-based personnel, including barangay health workers, civil registration agents, and other designated local officers, in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Local Civil Registry Office.

SECTION 5. COMMUNITY BASED CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

- A. Barangay Civil Registration Missions shall be conducted quarterly in all Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) by a joint team composed of representatives from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Local Government Units (LGUs), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).
- B. Community Civil Registrar (CCR) shall be designated in every barangay to:
 - 1. Conduct home visits to identify and register unregistered children;
 - 2. Assist families in completing and submitting required civil registration documents; and
 - 3. Submit verified and endorsed records to the LGU Civil Registrar and the PSA on a monthly basis.

SECTION 6. DIGITAL CIVIL REGISTRY SYSTEM (DCRS).

- A. The PSA shall develop, deploy, and maintain a Digital Civil Registry System (DCRS) that shall:
 - 1. Facilitate both online and offline modes of civil registration;
 - 2. Integrate biometric identity verification in coordination with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys);
 - 3. Enable the real-time generation and issuance of secure, electronic Certificates of Live Birth (eCOLB);

4. Incorporate end-to-end encryption, data integrity protocols, and data privacy protections, in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.
- B. All city and municipal civil registry offices shall be fully interfaced and interoperable with the DCRS within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. MANDATORY HEALTH FACILITY LINKAGES.

- A. All public and private health facilities shall be mandated to transmit birth notifications to the Local Civil Registrar within twenty-four (24) hours from the time of delivery.
- B. Midwives and traditional birth attendants operating in rural and remote areas shall be required to report births to the CCR or barangay secretary within seventy-two (72) hours of delivery.
- C. The Department of Health (DOH) shall integrate civil registration education and protocols into all maternal, newborn, and child health programs, including training of health workers and birth attendants.

SECTION 8. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.

To ensure policy harmonization and effective implementation, the following agencies shall constitute the Joint Civil Registration Oversight Council (J-CROC):

1. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) – Chair
2. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
3. Department of Health (DOH)
4. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
5. Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)
6. National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)

The Council shall be responsible for:

- A. Developing implementation guidelines and standard operating procedures;
- B. Coordinating and monitoring mobile and barangay-level registration missions;
- C. Overseeing the systems integration and secure data sharing among agencies; and
- D. Establishing and tracking compliance metrics, performance benchmarks, and annual reporting protocols.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND INFORMAL SETTLERS.

The NCIP, in coordination with LGUs and civil society organizations, shall ensure the culturally appropriate, linguistically accessible, and identity-respecting registration of Indigenous Peoples (IPs), consistent with their customs and traditions.

On the other hand, the DSWD, in partnership with local social welfare offices and accredited non-government organizations, shall prioritize the registration of:

1. Informal settlers;
2. Homeless individuals and families; and
3. Children in street situations, orphanages, or alternative care systems.

SECTION 10. INCENTIVES AND PENALTIES.

- A. Barangays that achieve and maintain at least ninety-five percent (95%) birth registration coverage annually shall be eligible for performance-based grants under the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF).
- B. Health facilities and LGUs that fail to comply with mandated reporting requirements without justifiable cause may be subject to administrative sanctions as determined by their respective oversight agencies.
- C. Parents and guardians shall not be penalized for the late or non-registration of their children; however, proactive efforts and incentives shall be introduced to encourage timely compliance.

SECTION 11. FUNDING.

The initial implementation of this Act shall be funded through the following sources:

- A. Appropriations provided under the General Appropriations Act (GAA);
- B. Existing and future allocations under the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) budget;
- C. Official Development Assistance (ODA) and grant mechanisms supporting digital identity, data governance, and civil registration initiatives.

Subsequent funding shall be included in the annual budgets of implementing agencies.

SECTION 12. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Statistics Authority, in coordination with the Joint Civil Registration Oversight Council (J-CROC), shall

promulgate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective enforcement of this Act.

SECTION 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE.

All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY.

This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,