

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2788



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11055 (2018), otherwise known as the “Philippine Identification System Act,” provides for a single official identification card (PhilID) to be issued to all Filipino citizens and resident aliens. The PhilID is required to contain specified demographic information on its face, and the Philippine Statistics Authority (“PSA”) is tasked with ensuring its secure and efficient implementation. While the PhilSys Number (“PSN”) is not printed on the front of the PhilID, it is currently embedded in microprint on the card’s reverse side. This creates risks of unauthorized access and identity misuse. In 2024, the PSA issued a public advisory warning against individuals attempting to photograph PhilID cards in exchange for cash, highlighting growing threats related to identity fraud.¹

This bill amends Section 7C(1) of Republic Act No. 11055 to remove any printed or visible representation of the PSN, including microprinted forms, from the PhilID. Instead, the PSN, selected fingerprint information, and other security features shall be securely encoded within the PhilID’s QR Code, with access strictly limited to authorized entities using regulated authentication procedures. The bill also formally allows for the issuance of a mobile PhilID, subject to appropriate guidelines to be issued by the PSA.

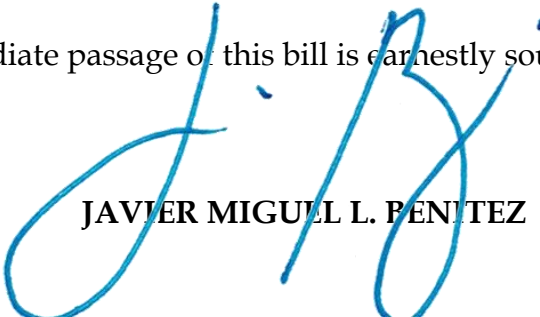
These amendments are aligned with global standards, which recommend that sensitive personal data not be visibly displayed and instead be protected through

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority, (August 9, 2024), *PUBLIC ADVISORY*, <https://psa.gov.ph/content/public-advisory-40>. (Date last accessed: July 30, 2025).

encrypted and secure digital means,² and reaffirm the State's duty to balance identity verification with the protection of personal data.³

This bill is filed as a counterpart measure to a Senate bill introduced by Senator Panfilo "Ping" M. Lacson, and is consistent with similar proposals filed in both chambers in the 20th Congress. Its filing affirms a shared legislative commitment to strengthening the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) by updating its technical features to enhance privacy, data protection, and system reliability.

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



JAVIER MIGUEL L. PENITEZ

² World Bank Group, Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development: Toward Digital Age, pp. 18, (2022).

³ 1987 Constitution, Article II, Section 11.

Republic Act No. 10173, "Data Privacy Act of 2012," Section 11 (2012).

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2788**

Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11055, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM ACT OF 2017"**

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

SECTION 1. - Section 7C(1) of Republic Act No. 11055, otherwise known as the "Philippine Identification System Act", is hereby amended to read as follows:

" (1) Features. - The PhilID shall be the physical medium issued to convey essential information about the person's identity containing on its face the [PSN,] full name, sex, blood type, marital status (optional), place of birth, a front facing photograph, date of birth, and address of the individual in whose favor it was issued. All information appearing in the PhilID should match with the registered information in the PhilSys. The PhilID shall contain QR Code which contains, **THE PSN**, some fingerprint information, and other security features as safeguards for data privacy and security, and prevention against the proliferation of fraudulent or falsified identification cards. The PSA, in consideration of advances in technology, utility, security, and confidentiality, may, subject to appropriate guidelines that shall be issued on the matter, provide citizens or resident aliens with mobile PhilID."

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,