

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2923**



Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**
1st District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The current system that requires the use of physical purchase booklets has proven to be burdensome and inefficient for many of our elderly.

In securing their necessities, senior citizens sometimes forget to bring their purchase booklets, thereby preventing them from availing of the legislated discounts. There are also instances when, due to confusion or oversight, they bring the wrong booklet; for example, presenting the one for groceries when purchasing medicines. Further, it is a common experience for our elderly to be encumbered by the process of requesting a new booklet from the relevant government agency whenever their existing booklet is filled up. To address these issues, the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) itself has proposed the discontinuance of the physical booklet system and the establishment of a Centralized Database for Senior Citizens.

This proposed measure seeks to modernize and streamline the process by establishing a Centralized Database for Senior Citizens, to be managed by the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The database will digitally capture and store relevant transaction details, such as the nature, quantity, and price of purchased goods or medicines, as well as the establishment and date of purchase. This will serve as the official record in lieu of the physical purchase booklet. To ensure the security and confidentiality of the data, the bill imposes strict penalties for unauthorized access, disclosure, or tampering with the database. These include imprisonment and/or fines, in accordance with existing laws on data privacy and public accountability.

This bill affirms the State's duty to promote the welfare of senior citizens by harnessing technology to establish a more efficient, accessible, and secure system for the delivery of statutory benefits. It safeguards not only the rights of the elderly but also the integrity and effectiveness of government social programs. It is imperative to discontinue the implementation of the purchase slip booklet as a mandatory requirement for the availment of the senior citizen's discount in order to lessen the burden on our elderly persons who wish to avail of the privileges granted them by law.

For the foregoing reasons, the early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CENTRALIZED DATABASE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Senior Citizens Database Act ".

SEC. 2. *Establishment of a Centralized Database for Senior Citizens.* A centralized database for senior citizens shall be established, maintained and managed by the National Commission of Senior Citizens (Commission) in cooperation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The database, which shall be accessible to merchants, shall be used to digitally record the kind of medicine or basic or essential commodities purchased, the quantity and price, the date of the transaction, and the establishment where the same has been purchased. The database shall be utilized in lieu of the purchase slip booklet, the usage of which shall be discontinued as a mandatory requirement for the availment of the senior citizens discount.

The database and any information contained therein shall only be accessed by authorized personnel in line with the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Penalty for Violation of the Confidentiality or Integrity of the Records in the Database.* Any person who, by virtue of employment or official position, shall knowingly and willfully commits any of the following acts shall suffer the penalty of four (4) years and one (1) day of imprisonment or a fine not more than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php300,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court:

- a) unauthorized access to and improper use of any information contained in the database system; or
- b) disclosure in any manner of any information found or contained in the database to any person or agency not legally entitled to receive it to the prejudice and detriment of the public or person from whom the said information was taken; or

- c) tampering, altering or making any false entry in the database, including destroying, concealing, removing or otherwise impairing the verity or availability of the database without authority.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the DICT, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current year's appropriation of the Commission. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* All existing laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved,