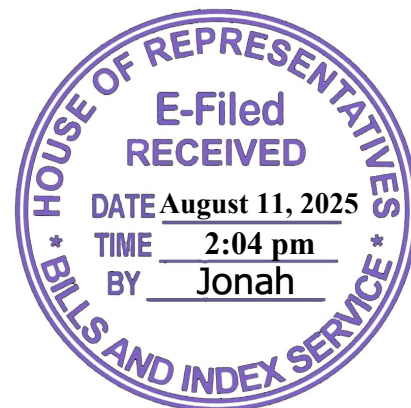


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3443



Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,**
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and
HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institute a digitalized prison records system in the penological and correction system of our country. It shall mandate the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to establish a Digital Prison Records System (DPRS) to store, manage, and share information related to persons deprived of liberty or PDLs and their respective cases, relevant court records, and other related matters. Moreover, the DPRS shall be accessible to law enforcement agencies and the courts through their duly authorized officers or agents, as well as to legal counsels of PDLs, for the general expediency and unclogging of court dockets in criminal cases.

Our country has the eleventh highest prison population in the world.¹ In 2015, the number of PDLs in the correction system was 94,691. It ballooned to 165,528 in

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Information retrieved from <https://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/philippines/2023/12/jails-prisons-overcrowding/story.html>. Dated 7 December 2023

2021 with an almost 75% rise.² Moreover, in an audit report by the BJMP in 2022, the prison facilities in our country had a staggering overcrowding rate by 367%.³ Most of jail facilities or nearly 68% out of 478 jails in the country are considered as heavily congested with occupancy rates ranging from 101% to 2,739%.

More than two thirds of PDLs are undergoing preventive detention wherein the cases are pending and no decision or conviction has yet been made in their cases. With the arduous and slow court procedures due to congested dockets in criminal cases, PDLs suffer lacking space to sleep, proper ventilation, and adequate access to health care.

In adherence with the efforts being undertaken by the Judiciary and other government offices and instrumentalities for the modernization and digitalization of records in court matters, it is only apt to emphasize the use of modern technology to ensure transparency and accountability in the treatment of PDLs.

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



RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III



LANI MERCADO-REVILLA



BRYAN B. REVILLA

² Ibid.

³ Philippine Star Global. Philippine jails overcrowded by 367%. Information retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/06/22/2275793/philippine-jails-overcrowded-367-coa>. Dated 22 June 2023

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House Bill No. 3443

Introduced by HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and
HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIGITAL PRISON
RECORDS SYSTEM BY THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS AND THE
BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Digital Prison
2 Record System Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby the policy of the State to promote
4 efficiency, transparency, and accuracy in the administration of justice in harnessing
5 and utilizing information and communication technology. Towards this end, the
6 government shall aim to improve the management of information and records
7 concerning persons deprived of liberty.

8 **SEC. 3. *Establishment of the Digital Prison Records System.*** – The Bureau
9 of Corrections (BuCor) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP)

1 shall establish a computerized system to be known as the “Digital Prison Records
2 System” herein referred to as “System” designed to store, manage, and share
3 information related to persons deprived of liberty, their cases, relevant court records
4 and other related matters. Pursuant thereof, the BuCor and the BJMP shall undertake
5 the digitalization and migration to the System of their paper-based documents and
6 records concerning Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs).

7 **SEC. 4. *Accessibility and Integration.*** – The System shall be accessible to
8 law enforcement agencies and the courts through their duly authorized officers and
9 agents and to the legal counsel of the PDLs, subject to the provisions of Republic
10 Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012.” As far as
11 practicable, the System shall be integrated to the existing records management
12 system of law enforcement agencies as well as the courts upon the approval of the
13 Supreme Court (SC).

14 **SEC. 5. *Data Security and Privacy.*** – The System shall be kept secure and
15 free from interference and unauthorized access and for this purpose it shall be
16 equipped with security measures to protect the integrity and confidentiality of the
17 stored information and data. *Further*, That the personal and sensitive information
18 shall be processed and share in compliance with existing data protection laws and
19 regulations.

20 **SEC. 6. *Training and Capacity Building.*** – The BuCor and BJMP shall
21 conduct regular training programs to equip authorized personnel with the skills and
22 knowledge required for the efficient utilization of the System.

23 **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to cover the initial
24 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation
25 of the BuCor and the BJMP. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the

1 implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act
2 (GAA) of the year following its effectivity.

3 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The BuCor and BJMP, in
4 coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology
5 (DICT), National Privacy Commission (NPC), and other relevant agencies, shall
6 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to properly and efficiently implement
7 this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

8 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
9 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts of this act shall remain
10 in full force and effect, and the application of such provision to other persons or
11 circumstances shall not be affected.

12 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, issuances, rules, and
13 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
14 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

15 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,