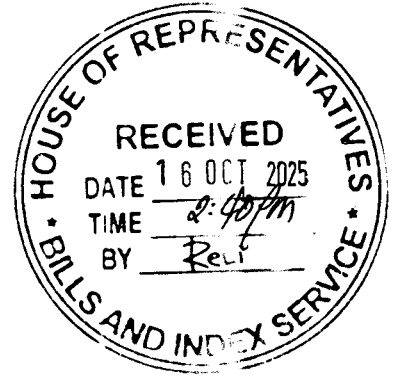




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5600**



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**Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that “The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.” Upholding this principle includes ensuring every Filipino’s right to legal identity through an efficient and reliable civil registration system.

In line with this, the Philippines is also committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.9, which calls for providing “legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030.” This global commitment underscores the urgent need to bring the country’s Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system into the digital age— where secure, technology-driven processes are essential for protecting rights and improving access to government services.

However, the current civil registration process in the Philippines remains largely manual and fragmented. Many records are paper-based, verification is slow, and fraud cases continue to rise. These inefficiencies affect millions of Filipinos who rely on birth, marriage, and death certificates for education, employment, healthcare, inheritance, and other essential services.

The problem of unregistered individuals remains pressing, with an estimated 3.7 million Filipinos, or 3.4% of the population, still lacking birth certificates, primarily among marginalized communities. Moreover, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), at least 840 irregular late registrations and 1,472 blocked certificates were detected nationwide, underscoring systemic weaknesses and vulnerabilities in the current paper-based civil registration process. These figures highlight the persistent gaps in authenticity, accuracy, and accessibility of vital records.

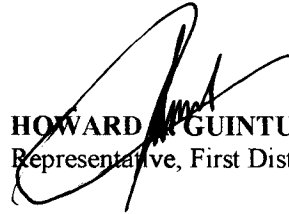
<sup>1</sup> Paunan, Jerome Carlo. Philippine Information Agency. 27 January 2025. *Gatchalian bats for PSA empowerment, stiffer penalties to combat fake birth certificates*. Retrieved from: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/gatchalian-bats-for-psa-empowerment-stiffer-penalties-to-combat-fake-birth-certificates>

<sup>2</sup> Bacelonia, Wilnard. Philippine News Agency. 3 October 2025. *PSA flags 840 irregular birth registrations, blocks 1,472 nationwide*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1260197>

What this proposed measure seeks to address is the outdated and vulnerable state of the country's civil registration system, which remains prone to delays, fraud, and exclusion. To resolve this, the proposed measure aims to modernize and strengthen the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system through the full digitalization of records and the creation of a centralized and secure national database managed by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). It also promotes the adoption of biometric and other advanced verification methods, the integration of the CRVS system with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) to ensure a single and verifiable national identity framework, and the imposition of stricter measures and penalties against falsified or fraudulent registrations.

The passage of this proposed measure shall ensure that every Filipino shall be provided with a secure and verifiable proof of identity, streamline government processes, and provide universal access to civil registration. In this effect, the modernization of the CRVS will strengthen data integrity, promote inclusive governance, and enhance the delivery of public services in the digital era.

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



**HOWARD B. GUINTU**  
Representative, First District of Capiz



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**AN ACT**  
**MODERNIZING THE PHILIPPINE CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS**  
**SYSTEM**

*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 “Philippine Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Modernization Act.”

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to ensure universal, accessible, accurate, and fraud-resistant civil registration by adopting modern technologies, centralizing vital records, and establishing strong identity verification systems consistent with data privacy and human rights standards.

**SEC. 3. *Coverage.*** – This Act shall cover the registration, storage, and issuance of birth, marriage, death, annulment, adoption, legitimation, recognition, divorce, if legalized, and other vital events, including foreign-issued documents that must be registered in the Philippines.

**SEC. 4. *Modernization of Civil Registration.*** – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall lead the modernization and shall:

(1) Establish a fully digital, paperless civil registration system; (2) Maintain a centralized, encrypted national civil registry database; (3) Develop an online platform for registration, verification, and issuance of vital documents; (4) Integrate biometric and demographic verification using Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) data; (5) Provide interoperability with government agencies between and among the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Commission on

Election (COMELEC), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Social Security System (SSS), Government Security Insurance System (GSIS), Philippine Health Insurance, Inc. (PhilHealth) and other relevant government agencies, *Provided*, that all local civil registry offices (LCROs) shall be connected to the national database and shall implement real-time digital registration and reporting.

**SEC. 5. *Reporting and Verification Protocols.*** – All registrations shall undergo PhilSys-based verification, including biometric validation when applicable: *Provided*, that late or delayed registrations shall be subject to stricter scrutiny, affidavit requirements, and approval by the PSA: *Provided, however*, that duplicate and fraudulent records shall be flagged and invalidated through the national system.

**SEC. 6. *Protection of Data and Privacy.*** - All civil registration records shall be subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012, with strict access controls, audit trails, and penalties for unauthorized disclosure

**SEC. 7. *Linkage with PhilSys.*** - Every registered vital event shall be automatically linked to the registrant's PhilSys Number (PSN). The PSA shall ensure synchronization between civil registry data and PhilSys records: *Provided*, that government transactions shall gradually transition to requiring digitally verifiable civil registry documents.

**SEC. 8. *Accessibility of Services.*** - Every Filipino citizen shall have the right to request certified digital copies of civil registry documents through PSA-authorized platforms. Physical copies may only be available upon request and that registration services shall be made accessible in remote and underserved areas through mobile registration units.

**SEC. 9. *Cybersecurity Safeguards.*** - The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the National Privacy Commission (NPC), shall implement and enforce cybersecurity measures consistent with national and international best practices to protect the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of civil registration and vital statistics records.

For this purpose, the PSA shall:

1. Implement recognized encryption and security standards for the storage, processing, and transmission of civil registry data;

2. Conduct periodic and independent security audits, vulnerability assessments, and penetration testing to proactively address potential risks;

3. Establish an incident response framework, including the timely notification of affected individuals and relevant government bodies in the event of a security breach;

4. Impose binding cybersecurity and data protection obligations upon any private contractors, service providers, or third parties engaged in the CRVS system; and

5. Undertake continuous capacity-building programs to enhance the cybersecurity awareness and technical competence of personnel at national and local civil registry offices.

**SEC. 10. *Offenses and Penalties.*** - Any person who knowingly submits false or fraudulent documents for civil registration shall suffer a penalty of imprisonment of prison mayor and a fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) to One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00): *Provided*, that any public officer who connives in fraudulent registrations shall be dismissed from service, permanently disqualified from public office, and subject to the same penalties.

**SEC. 11. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The PSA is authorized to use income from civil registry services to fund modernization efforts.

**SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The PSA, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), National Privacy Commission (NPC), and relevant agencies, shall issue the IRR within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and in full force.

**SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, rules, or regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

*Approved,*