

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5716



Introduced by REP. JESUS ANGEL MANUEL “BONG” C. SUNTAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to a legal identity is the cornerstone of citizenship, access to justice, and participation in governance. Civil registration is not merely an administrative function—it is a fundamental mechanism by which the State recognizes the existence of every individual and guarantees the protection of their rights from birth to death. Birth, marriage, and death certificates, among other civil registry documents, are indispensable in accessing education, employment, health care, social protection, and the exercise of suffrage. Yet for many Filipinos, particularly those in remote or marginalized communities, the process of securing, correcting, or authenticating these records remains slow, fragmented, and manually dependent.

Republic Acts Nos. 9048 and 10172 introduced administrative remedies to correct clerical or typographical errors and amend certain entries in civil registry documents without judicial proceedings. These laws were intended to decongest the courts and accelerate service delivery. However, more than two decades after their enactment, implementation remains hampered by procedural redundancies, localized variations in practice, limited automation, and the absence of a unified digital system linking local civil registrars with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Citizens still endure long waiting periods, repetitive documentary submissions, and lack of transparency in application tracking.

This bill, entitled the “Philippine Civil Registration and Digital Modernization Act of 2025,” seeks to address these persistent gaps by modernizing the country’s Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System and institutionalizing a National Digital Civil Registry Platform (NDCRP) that integrates the processes of record correction, verification, and authentication across all levels of government. It aligns with the State’s constitutional duty under Article II, Section 27 of the 1987 Constitution to ensure “honesty and integrity in the public service” and to promote efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the delivery of government services.

At the core of the measure is the creation of a citizen-centered, secure, and interoperable digital platform that allows individuals to file petitions for correction or amendment of their civil registry records online, pay corresponding fees electronically, and track the status of their applications in real time. The bill introduces several institutional, technological, and procedural innovations, and by embedding these operational safeguards, the proposed measure transforms the existing paper-based correction system into a transparent, accountable, and

1 technology-driven public service infrastructure. It bridges the gap between
2 administrative accessibility and legal authenticity—ensuring that corrections made
3 online carry the same probative value and enforceability as those issued through
4 traditional processes.

5
6 Beyond modernization, this bill is an investment in administrative justice and data
7 governance. A digitalized civil registry will not only simplify transactions but will also
8 enhance national planning, policy research, and demographic analysis through more
9 accurate and timely vital statistics. It will enable the State to respond to social
10 protection needs, track population health indicators, and strengthen disaster
11 response mechanisms.

12
13 In essence, the measure operationalizes the convergence of legal reform and digital
14 transformation. It ensures that civil registration becomes a continuous, secure, and
15 citizen-first process, responsive to the evolving demands of a digital society and
16 aligned with the national commitment to efficient, inclusive, and transparent
17 governance.

18
19 In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
20
21

22
23
24

REP. JESUS "BONG" C. SUNTAY

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Constitution Hills, Quezon City

4
5 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
6 First Regular Session
7

8 **HOUSE BILL NO. 5716**
9

10
11 Introduced by REP. JESUS MANUEL BONG SUNTAY
12

13 **AN ACT MODERNIZING THE CIVIL REGISTRATION AND ERROR**
14 **CORRECTION PROCESS UNDER THE PHILIPPINE CIVIL**
15 **REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM, ESTABLISHING**
16 **THE NATIONAL DIGITAL CIVIL REGISTRY PLATFORM,**
17 **STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL AND DATA GOVERNANCE**
18 **MECHANISMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
19

20 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
21 Congress assembled:
22

23 **SECTION 1. Short Title.**

24 This Act shall be known as the “**Philippine Civil Registration and Digital**
25 **Modernization Act of 2025.**”
26

27 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.**

28 It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure that every Filipino has the right
29 to accurate, secure, and accessible civil registry records. In pursuit of this objective,
30 the State shall:
31

- 32 (a) Promote efficiency, transparency, and citizen-centered service delivery in the
33 correction, updating, and management of civil registry records;
34 (b) Modernize the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System through
35 digital transformation, automation, and inter-agency data interoperability;
36 (c) Guarantee data privacy, cybersecurity, and the integrity of civil registry
37 information consistent with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (Republic Act No. 10173)
38 and the E-Commerce Act of 2000 (Republic Act No. 8792);
39 (d) Strengthen the institutional capacities of the Philippine Statistics Authority
40 (PSA), Local Civil Registrars (LCRs), and relevant agencies for the efficient
41 implementation of civil registration services; and
42 (e) Promote equity and inclusiveness by providing digital access points and public
43 information programs for citizens without internet connectivity.
44

45 Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the PSA shall issue the National
46 Civil Registry Digital Transformation Framework, establishing performance
47 standards, interoperability protocols, and digital inclusion mechanisms consistent
48 with this policy.
49
50

1 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.**

2 For purposes of this Act:

3 (a) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System refers to the continuous,
4 permanent, and compulsory recording of vital events such as births, marriages, and
5 deaths, and the compilation of statistics derived therefrom, as maintained by the
6 Philippine Statistics Authority.

7 (b) Digital Civil Registry Correction Platform (DCRCP) refers to the centralized,
8 secure online system established under this Act to facilitate the electronic filing,
9 tracking, and approval of correction applications.

10 (c) Local Civil Registrar (LCR) refers to the city or municipal official mandated to
11 perform civil registration functions under existing laws.

12 (d) Clerical or Typographical Error refers to an innocuous mistake in writing,
13 copying, transcribing, or typing an entry in the civil register that does not involve
14 changes in nationality, civil status, sex, or legitimacy.

15 (e) Electronic Signature refers to a distinctive electronic mark affixed to a digital
16 document that identifies the signatory and authenticates the integrity of the record
17 pursuant to Republic Act No. 8792.

18 (f) Migrant Petitioner refers to an applicant whose civil registry record is registered
19 in one locality but who currently resides in another jurisdiction or abroad.

20 (g) Digital Kiosk or Partner Access Point refers to accredited physical sites or
21 facilities established in cooperation with local government units (LGUs) or private
22 partners where citizens may access the DCRCP.

23
24 **SEC. 4. Scope and Coverage.**

25 This Act shall cover all petitions for correction of clerical or typographical errors and
26 change of first name or nickname under Republic Act No. 9048, as amended by
27 Republic Act No. 10172, and shall extend to the digital processing, authentication, and
28 annotation of civil registry records within the Philippine Civil Registration and Vital
29 Statistics System.

30
31 **SEC. 5. Establishment of the National Digital Civil Registry Platform.**

32 The Philippine Statistics Authority, in coordination with the Department of
33 Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall establish and maintain
34 a National Digital Civil Registry Platform (NDCRP) that shall:

35
36 (a) Provide citizens with secure, online access to the submission, payment, and
37 tracking of correction applications;

38 (b) Allow the use of electronic signatures and digital submission of supporting
39 documents;

40 (c) Integrate seamlessly with existing CRVS databases, the Philippine Identification
41 System (PhilSys), and other government registries for verification and
42 authentication;

43 (d) Issue digital notices and updates to petitioners on the progress of their
44 applications;

45 (e) Operate access points in PSA field offices, LGUs, and accredited digital kiosks for
46 citizens without internet access;

47 (f) Maintain redundancy and disaster-recovery systems to ensure continuity of
48 operations; and

49 (g) Publish a public transparency dashboard detailing application volumes, average
50 processing times, and rates of approval or denial.

1 The PSA shall ensure that the platform meets the standards of cybersecurity,
2 accessibility, and digital inclusion, and shall submit an annual independent system
3 audit report to Congress.

4
5 **SEC. 6. Duties and Responsibilities of Implementing Agencies.**

6 (a) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The PSA shall serve as the lead
7 implementing agency and shall:

- 8 (1) Develop and administer the NDCRP;
9 (2) Issue implementing rules and regulations (IRR) and procedural
10 guidelines for digital correction and verification of records;
11 (3) Authenticate and maintain data integrity within the CRVS system;
12 (4) Provide technical support and capacity-building programs for all Local
13 Civil Registrars; and
14 (5) Design and implement a public information and education program on
15 digital civil registration.

16 (b) Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The DICT
17 shall:

- 18 (1) Provide technical assistance on system design, cybersecurity, and
19 interoperability;
20 (2) Certify the NDCRP for compliance with national ICT standards; and
21 (3) Assist in establishing regional data centers and redundant storage
22 facilities.

23 (c) Local Civil Registrars (LCRs). Each LCR shall:

- 24 (1) Verify, evaluate, and approve digital correction requests within its
25 jurisdiction, consistent with prescribed timelines;
26 (2) Maintain a secure digital record of all local transactions; and
27 (3) Coordinate with PSA field offices for synchronization of updates in real
28 time.

29
30 **SEC. 7. Standardized Timelines and Performance Benchmarks.**

31 The PSA, in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government
32 (DILG), shall ensure the following service standards:

- 33
34 (a) Preliminary evaluation by LCR — within ten (10) working days from filing;
35 (b) Posting or digital notification period — ten (10) consecutive days;
36 (c) Decision by LCR — within five (5) working days after posting;
37 (d) Transmission to PSA — within five (5) working days from decision;
38 (e) PSA validation and annotation — within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt.

39
40 Failure to comply with these standards without valid cause shall subject the
41 responsible official to administrative sanctions as may be determined by the Civil
42 Service Commission.

43
44 **SEC. 8. Data Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Digital Integrity.**

45 All personal and civil registry data processed under this Act shall be governed by the
46 Data Privacy Act of 2012. The PSA shall implement the following safeguards:

- 47
48 (a) Encryption of all transmitted and stored data;
49 (b) Access controls and multi-factor authentication for users and officials;
50 (c) Regular cybersecurity audits and vulnerability assessments;
51 (d) Mandatory breach notification to affected individuals and the National Privacy

Commission within seventy-two (72) hours of discovery; and
(e) Periodic data retention review, ensuring the deletion of outdated records in accordance with national archives and privacy standards.

Unauthorized access, alteration, or disclosure of civil registry information shall be punishable under this Act and existing data protection laws.

SEC. 9. Accreditation and Regulation of Digital Access Points.

The PSA, in coordination with the DILG and DICT, shall accredit Digital Kiosks or Partner Access Points that will facilitate citizens' access to the NDCRP. Accredited entities must:

- (a) Meet security and infrastructure standards prescribed by the PSA;
- (b) Ensure staff compliance with confidentiality and ethical conduct requirements; and
- (c) Undergo periodic compliance audits.

Violations of accreditation standards shall result in suspension or revocation of authority and applicable penalties.

SEC. 10. Funding and Digital Service Fees.

An initial amount of Three Billion Pesos (P3,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the establishment of the NDCRP, chargeable against the current appropriations of the PSA and DICT.

A revolving Civil Registry Digital Service Fund shall thereafter be maintained by the PSA for the upkeep, security, and enhancement of the platform, sourced from reasonable service fees, grants, and public-private partnerships, subject to auditing by the Commission on Audit (COA).

The PSA shall standardize service fees nationwide and ensure fee exemptions for indigent petitioners duly certified by the local social welfare office.

SEC. 11. Appeals and Remedies.

Any petitioner whose application has been denied shall have the right to appeal digitally through the NDCRP to the Civil Registrar General within ten (10) working days from receipt of denial. The Civil Registrar General shall decide the appeal within thirty (30) calendar days. The decision shall be final and executory unless further appealed to the proper court under existing laws.

SEC. 12. Integration with Other Government Systems.

The NDCRP shall be interoperable with:

- (a) The Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) for verification of identity;
- (b) The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for passport data consistency;
- (c) The Department of Health (DOH) for birth and death certification; and
- (d) Other government agencies requiring validated civil registry data.

The PSA and DICT shall establish Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and protocols to ensure real-time data synchronization.

SEC. 13. Transparency and Accountability.

The PSA shall maintain a Public Performance and Compliance Dashboard containing:

- 1 (a) Statistical summaries of applications processed;
2 (b) Average completion times;
3 (c) Audit findings on data privacy compliance; and
4 (d) Annual citizen satisfaction ratings.

5 The Inter-Agency Oversight Committee on Civil Registry Modernization shall submit
6 to Congress an annual report detailing accomplishments, challenges, and policy
7 recommendations.

8
9 **SEC. 14. Penalties.**

- 10 (a) Any person who knowingly accesses, alters, or discloses civil registry data without
11 authorization shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but
12 not more than twelve (12) years, or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand
13 Pesos (₱100,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00), or both.
14 (b) Government personnel who willfully delay, falsify, or misuse data shall, in
15 addition, suffer dismissal from service and perpetual disqualification from public
16 office.

17
18 **SEC. 15. Public Awareness and Digital Literacy.**

19 The PSA, in collaboration with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Department
20 of Education (DepEd), and Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall conduct
21 a nationwide campaign to educate citizens on the procedures, safeguards, and
22 benefits of digital civil registration and correction services.

23
24 **SEC. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

25 Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PSA, DICT, and DILG shall
26 promulgate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to ensure its
27 full enforcement, including detailed provisions on system security, performance
28 standards, appeals, and accreditation.

29
30 **SEC. 17. Separability Clause.**

31 If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining
32 provisions shall continue to be in full force and effect.

33
34 **SEC. 18. Repealing Clause.**

35 All laws, decrees, and administrative orders inconsistent with this Act are hereby
36 repealed, modified, or superseded accordingly. This Act shall be read in harmony with
37 Republic Acts Nos. 9048, 10172, and the Philippine Civil Registration and Vital
38 Statistics Act.

39
40 **SEC. 19. Effectivity.**

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

43
44 Approved,