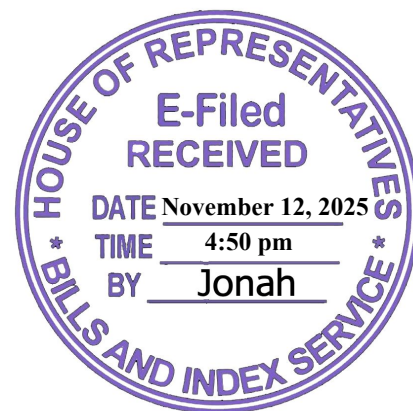


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **5933**



**Introduced by Representatives OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE and
PAOLO Z. DUTERTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that labor is a primary social economic force. With labor as the cornerstone of national development, workers shall be afforded with full protection of their rights, as well as promotion of their welfare and interests.

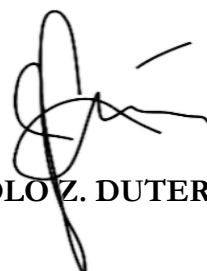
The enactment of Republic Act No. 12254 or the *E-Governance Act* ensued a national shift to a unified, secure digital government system, which ultimately changed the trajectory of government transactions. Hand-in-hand with this is Republic Act No. 11927 or the *Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act*, which serves as an institutional framework in establishing a centralized web portal to consolidate information on all government and private sector-led training, skills development, certification, and scholarship programs.

The *TESDA Circular No. 079-2021* or the TESDA Skills Passport System has mandated the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to implement Skills Passport System, which seeks to provide skilled Filipino workers with a lifetime government-issued ID that stores their training and certification portfolio. However, such digital and physical cards are only equipped with a Quick Response (QR) Code. Thus, incorporating the Skills Passport System into a digital lifetime record of one's portfolio of skills and credentials equips the Filipino workforce with a portable, secure, and dynamic digital credential that is indispensable for global competitiveness and the nation's transition to a digital economy.

It is in this regard that this *TESDA Circular* be codified into a legislative measure so as to ensure that Filipino workers' credentials align with international standards and are instantly verifiable by foreign employers and agencies, to facilitate the adoption of micro-credentials and stackable qualifications to allow workers to continually add even small, job-specific digital competencies, and to provide employers with job platforms which has a real-time and accurate digital skills registry.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


HON. OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE


HON. PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **5933**

Introduced by Representatives **OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE** and
PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DIGITAL SKILLS PASSPORT SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 ***"Digital Skills Passport System Act of 2025."***

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the state to regulate the relations between workers and employers through recognizing the right of labor to its just share in the fruits of production and the right of enterprises to reasonable returns on investments and to expansion and growth. The State recognizes that a unified, verifiable, and portable digital skills credential is essential to promote lifelong learning, increase global competitiveness, reduce job-skill mismatch, and ensure the continuous relevance of the national workforce in a digitally-driven global economy.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the term:

- a. ***Certifying Agencies*** refer to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Education (DepEd), and other industry bodies accredited by the Inter-Agency Council;
- b. ***Digital workforce*** refers to any natural person who engages in remunerated activity through the use of digital skills and digital technology, regardless of work or employment arrangement, whether as a regular employee of a company or as a freelancer;
- c. ***Digital labor platforms*** means digital technology-based platforms that facilitate the production, trade, and commercial exchange of digital content, digital products, or other goods and services arising from digital transactions. This includes web-based and online platforms where work is outsourced through an open call to geographically-dispersed individuals and location-based online applications where work is allocated to individuals in a specific geographical area;
- d. ***Digital content*** refers to any type of content that exists in the form of digital data that are stored, and can be created, viewed, processed, distributed, modified and stored using computers and digital technologies. The content can be either free or paid content such

as webpages and websites, social media, data and databases, digital audio, such as MP3s or MP4s, and e-books, digital imagery, digital video, video games, computer programs and software;

- e. **Digital inclusion** refers to the process of ensuring that all members of society, especially those from disadvantaged and marginalized groups, have access and are empowered to utilize and benefit from state-of-the-art information and communications technology (ICT);
- f. **Digital skills** refer to a range of skills, encompassing a combination of behaviors, expertise, know-how, work habits, character traits, dispositions, and critical understanding on the use of digital devices, communication applications, and networks to access and manage information;
- g. **Digital Skills Passport (DSP)** means a secure, government-recognized digital record containing the verifiable digital competencies, training history, certifications, and micro-credentials attained by a Filipino worker, used for employment, professional licensing, and academic advancement;
- h. **Digital Skills Passport (DSP) Platform** refers to the centralized, secured digital portal mandated under Republic Act No. 11927, where all DSP records are stored, accessed, and verified;
- i. **Digital technology** refers to any product or service that can be used to create, view, distribute, modify, store, retrieve, transmit, and receive information electronically in a digital form, such as personal computers and devices like desktop, laptop, netbook, tablet computer, smart phones, games consoles, media players, e-book readers, as well as digital television, robots, personal assistant smart devices, and smart boards;
- j. **Innovation** refers to the creation of new ideas using new or existing technologies that result in the development of new or improved products, processes, or services, which are then spread or transferred across the market.
- k. **Inter-Agency Council for the Development and Competitiveness of the Philippine Digital Workforce** is an inter-agency council created under Republic Act 11927 or the *Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act* which is the primary planning, coordinating and implementing body in the promotion, development, enhancement and competitiveness of the Philippine digital workforce. It is chaired by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and composed of the following government agencies as members: the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); and
- l. **Micro-credential** means a verifiable, discrete certification of a specific, high-demand skill, designed to be stackable towards a full qualification.

SEC. 4. Establishment and Operation of the Digital Skills Passport (DSP) System. – The Inter-Agency Council for the Development and Competitiveness of the Philippine Digital

Workforce, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall establish and manage the Digital Skills Passport (DSP) System.

The Digital Skills Passport (DSP) shall be mandatorily issued to all individuals who complete recognized digital skills training or certification programs offered by Certifying Agencies.

SEC. 5. *Establishment of Digital Skills Passport (DSP) Platform.* – There shall be established a Digital Skills Passport (DSP) Platform which must utilize tamper-proof technology to ensure the integrity, authenticity, and legal validity of all recorded credentials.

The DSP Platform must be fully interoperable with the Department of Information and Communications Technology's (DICT's) E-Government Superapp, the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE's) Public Employment Service Office (PESO) job-matching system, and private sector hiring platforms.

SEC. 6. *Establishment of the Digital Skills Standards and Updates.* – The Inter-Agency Council for the Development and Competitiveness of the Philippine Digital Workforce shall be the lead agency to develop, publish, and update the Philippine Digital Skills Competency Standards (PDSCS) every three (3) years. The PDSCS shall prioritize competencies in high-growth areas, including:

- a. Data Science and Analytics;
- b. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning;
- c. Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics;
- d. Cloud Computing and Infrastructure; and
- e. Digital Marketing and E-Commerce

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Council for the Development and Competitiveness of the Philippine Digital Workforce shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8 *Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Council for the Development and Competitiveness of the Philippine Digital Workforce shall include in the Council's programs the establishment of the integrated and centralized Digital Skills Passport (DSP) Platform, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,