

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

6529
HOUSE BILL NO. _____



**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
and Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION
(CCTV) SYSTEMS IN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PARKS, SCHOOLS, AND OTHER PLACES OF PUBLIC
CONGREGATION TO DETER CRIME AND PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent years, the Philippines has witnessed an alarming rise in crimes committed in both public and private spaces from theft and vandalism to physical assaults and acts of terrorism. Many of these incidents remain unresolved due to the lack of reliable evidence or eyewitness accounts. In a time where technology can play a vital role in ensuring the safety of communities, it becomes imperative for the State to strengthen its crime prevention mechanisms through the strategic use of surveillance technology.

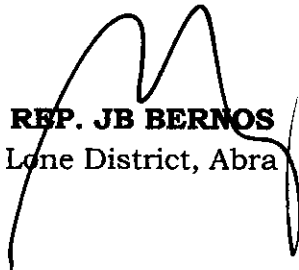
Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy. To give effect to this constitutional mandate, this bill proposes the mandatory installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) systems in all business establishments, government offices, public buildings, schools, parks, streets, and other areas of public congregation. CCTVs have long been proven effective in deterring criminal acts, aiding law enforcement investigations, and providing valuable evidence for prosecution. They not only serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders but also promote accountability and transparency in public and private institutions.

This measure ensures that surveillance is conducted responsibly and in full respect of individual privacy. It provides clear provisions on who may access recordings, under what conditions, and how long such data shall be stored. It also identifies responsible officers for compliance and imposes penalties for violations or negligence. Moreover, it requires the Department of the Interior and Local

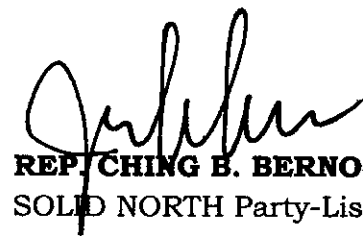
Government (DILG) and local government units to oversee implementation and provide technical assistance to ensure that installations are standardized, secure, and functional.

By institutionalizing the installation of CCTV systems nationwide, this measure aims to promote public safety, deter crime, strengthen law enforcement, and foster a safer environment for all Filipinos.

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



REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District, Abra



REP. CHING B. BERNOS
SOLID NORTH Party-List

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*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 “Eye on Safety Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to maintain peace and order, protect life, liberty and property, and to promote the general welfare. Toward this end, the State shall facilitate helpful strategies and means to discourage crime and increase the safety and security of the public without impinging on constitutionally protected rights.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- (a) CCTV - refers to the use of the video cameras to transmit a signal to a specific place, on a set Of monitors/ a television system that transmits images on a "close loop" basis, where images are only available to those directly connected to the transmission system;
- (b) Government Office - refers to the administrative working space for public employees;
- (c) Public Buildings - refer to every building owned by the government or belonging to a private person but used or rented by the government although temporarily occupied by the same;

- (d) Parks - refer to an area of land, usually in its natural state, having facilities for rest and recreation of the public, owned and managed by a city , municipality or state;
- (e) Schools - refer to any building. structure, court or space dedicated for education or learning whether public or private;
- (f) Public Congregation - refers to places or areas where a large crowd usually gathers like places of worship, sports stadium and the like;
- (g) Streets - refer to a public thoroughfare where people may move about in public or private means of transportation, and where they may freely assemble or interact;
- (h) Alley - refers to a narrow lane, path or passageway, often for use of pedestrian; and
- (i) Business Establishments - refer to any establishment used for commercial purposes and operating for selling products to, or providing services to the general public. They shall include but shall not be limited to banks, restaurants, hospitals, malls, shopping centers, movie houses, theaters, supermarkets, groceries, entertainment centers, warehouses and other similar establishments.

SEC. 4. Objective. – The CCTV shall be utilized to promote crime prevention and uphold public safety with due regard to the privacy of every individual. It shall be installed and maintained to monitor and keep a recording of images in the premises of business establishments, government offices, public buildings, schools, parks, streets, alleys, and other areas of public congregation. It shall facilitate as an additional resource for law enforcement and security assistance whenever necessary and provide an effective crime deterrent by its threat of retrievable data recording.

SEC. 5. Coverage. – The installation of CCTV cameras shall be mandatory in all government offices, public buildings, schools, parks, streets, alleys, business establishments, and other areas of public congregation. This requirement shall likewise ensure that the CCTV cameras are working and tuned on and recording for twenty-four (24) hours each day for seven (7) days each week. Data of recordings shall be kept for a period not less than sixty (60) days from actual date of recording.

In case of cities and municipalities, the funding requirements for the installation of the CCTVs shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the year following its enactment, with the technical assistance of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

SEC. 6. Persons Responsible. – The Head of Office in case of government offices and public buildings and the City/Municipal Mayors with respect to parks, streets, alleys and other public congregations in their respective territorial jurisdiction, as well as the Owner/Administrators of academic/learning institutions with regard to schools, and the Owners/Proprietors of business establishments shall cause installations of CCTVs.

SEC. 7. Notice of Surveillance. – A signage informing the general public of the existence of the CCTV cameras shall be installed. It shall be visible, distinctive and located in areas with good lighting.

SEC. 8. Procedure for Access and Disclosure of Recordings. – The access, disclosure, use, viewing, or copying of images and recordings performed in accordance with this Act shall only be allowed in the following instances:

- (a) Upon a written request from a person in authority in connection with and limited to an investigation for the prosecution of an offense punishable by law;
- (b) Upon lawful order of the court, in connection with a pending criminal or civil proceeding;
- (c) To determine whether an offense has been committed against a person or property and to ascertain the identity of the perpetrator and the manner by which the crime was committed;
- (d) Any person whose image has been recorded may make an application in writing for a copy of the recording or the still images;
- (e) Law Enforcement Agencies shall not be allowed to release images or recordings from the CCTV to the media, except only when the circumstances warrant to help identify the perpetrator of a crime or locate his whereabouts, or as a matter of public information.

The use, copying or disclosure of images and recordings shall be authorized within twenty-four (24) hours after submission of the request as herein specified.

SEC. 9. Implementing Agency. – The Department of the Interior and Local Government and the respective Local Government Units (LGU) shall ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 10. Penalty Provisions. – Any act or omission in violation of the mandatory requirement under this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or a fine not to exceed Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50, 000.00), or both without prejudice to other civil or criminal liabilities that may arise therefrom.

The persons or officers enumerated under Section 5 shall be held answerable for violations of this Act; provided that it is shown that the violation was due to his/her direct participation, lack of supervision, or negligence. For government offices and public places, the noninstallation of the CCTV's shall be considered as nonfeasance and the officers responsible shall be subject to the penalties provided for in appropriate laws.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of DILG, in consultation with appropriate government agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act..

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,