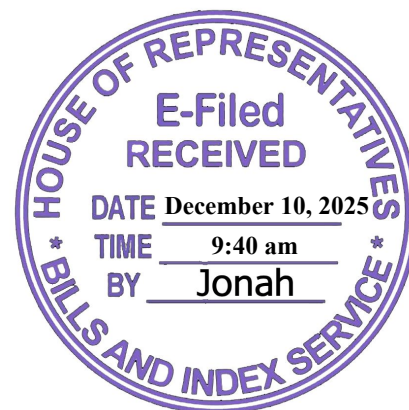




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6744



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SECURE AND INTEROPERABLE
ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Recognizing the need to modernize existing health information systems in the country, this bill seeks to established a National Electronic Health Record System under the Department of Health (DOH).

Through the creation of a National Electronic Health Record System, the State shall fulfill its constitutional mandates as the system aims to provide a centralized platform for storing and accessing Electronic Health Records (EHRs) across public and private healthcare providers, ensure interoperability across government and accredited private facilities and enable real-time access to patient data.

Through this bill it is hoped that interoperability, being a crucial factor in healthcare services, will enable different health information systems to exchange, share, and cooperatively use data, leading to better patient outcomes, increased efficiency, and lower costs.

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



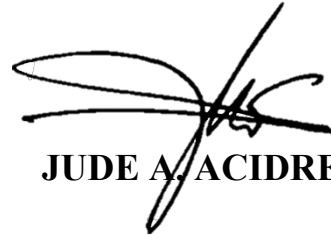
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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*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 “National Health Information System Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to ensure the accessibility, quality, and continuity of healthcare by modernizing the health information system. The government shall promote the use of secure, interoperable

electronic health records (EHR) to improve patient care, support evidence-based decision-making, and enhance public health surveillance.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act:

- a.) **Electronic Health Record (EHR)** refers to a digital version of a patient's paper chart containing medical history, diagnoses, medications, immunization dates, allergies, lab results, and treatment plans;
- b.) **Interoperability** refers to the ability of different information systems, devices, or applications to access, exchange, integrate, and cooperatively use data in a coordinated manner;
- c.) **Health Information Exchange (HIE)** refers to the secure sharing of health-related information across healthcare organizations; and
- d.) **EHR Provider** refers to any hospital, clinic, health center, laboratory, or healthcare provider who uses or contributes to the national EHR system.

SECTION 4. *Creation of the National EHR System.* - There is hereby established a National Electronic Health Record System under the Department of Health (DOH), which shall:

- a. Provide a centralized platform for storing and accessing EHRs across public and private healthcare providers;

- b. Ensure interoperability across government and accredited private facilities using international standards;
- c. Maintain data privacy, confidentiality, and cybersecurity consistent with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and other relevant laws;
- d. Enable real-time access to patient data for authorized healthcare professionals and patients themselves; and
- e. Integrate with PhilHealth, the Philippine Statistics Authority, Local Government Unit (LGU) health offices, and other relevant agencies.

SECTION 5. *Mandatory Implementation.* - Within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act, all public hospitals, rural health units (RHUs), city health offices, barangay health stations, and government health programs shall fully adopt and integrate into the National EHR System.

Private healthcare facilities are encouraged to participate, and shall be required to comply with interoperability standards for referrals, reimbursements, and coordinated care.

SECTION 6. *Patient Ownership and Consent.* - Patients shall have ownership and access to their electronic health records. No information shall be accessed or shared without the informed consent of the patient, unless required by law, authorized by court order, or for public health emergencies.

SECTION 7. *Oversight and Governance.* - A National EHR Council is hereby created under the DOH composed of:

- a.) DOH Secretary (Chairperson);
- b.) Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT);
- c.) National Privacy Commission (NPC);
- d.) PhilHealth;
- e.) Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and
- f.) One representative each from private hospitals, government hospitals, and professional health associations.

The Council shall formulate technical standards, privacy guidelines, interoperability frameworks, and compliance protocols.

SECTION 8. *Capacity Building and Training.* - The DOH shall allocate funds and conduct nationwide training programs for health workers and IT staff on the use and maintenance of EHR systems. Rural and under-resourced health facilities shall be prioritized.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DOH. Subsequent funding shall be included in the annual budget of the DOH and supplemented by grants, public-private partnerships, or international development assistance.

SECTION 10. *Penalties and Non-Compliance.* - Government health facilities failing to implement the EHR system within the mandated timeframe without valid justification shall face administrative sanctions. Unauthorized access, misuse, or breach of patient data shall be punishable under the Data Privacy Act and relevant criminal statutes.

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOH, in coordination with the DICT, NPC, and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within 90 days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,