

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6767



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Civil registration is the foundation of legal identity and essential public services. Yet despite reforms, many Local Civil Registry Offices (LCROs) still rely on manual, paper-based processes that lead to delays, data inconsistencies, and vulnerabilities to fraud. The lack of full digitalization and interoperability also hampers timely reporting of vital events and complicates identity verification across government agencies.

With the nationwide rollout of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) and ongoing digitalization efforts, the Philippines now has the opportunity to modernize its Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system. Linking vital records to the PhilSys's Number (PSN), establishing a centralized and encrypted national civil registry, and enabling online registration and issuance will significantly reduce duplication, improve data integrity, and enhance service delivery. Ensuring strong cybersecurity and data privacy safeguards is likewise essential to maintain public trust and protect sensitive personal information.

This bill mandates a fully digital, interoperable CRVS system led by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). It requires real-time reporting from LCROs, biometric and demographic verification through PhilSys, digital and mobile access to services, and clear protocols for fraud detection and data protection. It also provides for appropriate funding and imposes penalties for fraudulent registrations.

Through this measure, the State strengthens the legal identity of all Filipinos, improves government efficiency, and aligns national systems with global best practices and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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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.**"

Section 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 secure identity verification systems in a manner fully consistent with Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act of 2012), Republic Act No. 11055 (PhilSys Act), and human rights standards.

Section 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.

Section 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 eGov of 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 subject to their respective statutory mandates and compliant

with RA 10173 data-sharing requirements;

Provided, That all local civil registry offices (LCROs) shall be connected to the national database and shall implement real-time digital registration and reporting.

Section 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.

Section 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. All civil registration records shall be subject to RA 10173 and other applicable laws. All data sharing, interoperability mechanisms, and digital transmission shall be governed by Data Sharing Agreements (DSAs) compliant with NPC rules.

Section 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, without limiting access to services for persons who lack PhilSys credentials.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 10. *Offenses and Penalties.* - Any person who knowingly submits false or fraudulent documents for civil registration shall suffer a penalty of imprisonment of prision mayor and a fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) to One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) without prejudice to liability under the Revised Penal Code, RA 11055, RA 10173, or other special laws;

Provided, that any public officer who connives in fraudulent registrations shall be dismissed from service, permanently disqualified from public office, and subject to applicable Civil Service laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 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, subject to applicable budgetary, auditing, and fiscal rules.

Section 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.

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

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

Section 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,

