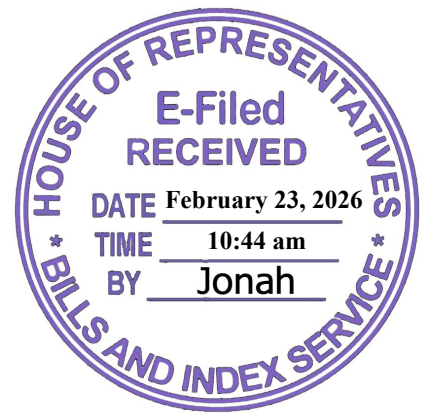


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. **7913**



Introduced by
Rep. ROBERT NAZAL

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN OPEN DATA AND RESPONSIBLE ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE FOUNDATION FOR GOVERNMENT,
PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN OPEN DATA PLATFORMS,
ADOPTING ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE AI GUIDELINES,
DELIVERING CITIZEN-CENTRIC AI SERVICES, AND
MANDATING PERIODIC PUBLIC REPORTING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Digital technologies, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), are rapidly transforming the way governments deliver public services, make policy decisions, and interact with citizens. When responsibly designed and governed, AI systems can significantly enhance efficiency, transparency, and accessibility in government. However, without clear standards, adequate safeguards, and public oversight, the use of AI may also amplify bias, undermine due process, compromise privacy, and erode public trust.

Responsible use of AI in government must begin with reliable and accessible data. Open data platforms enable evidence-based policymaking and promote innovation across sectors.¹ More importantly, open data helps ensure that AI systems used by the State can be reviewed, understood, and evaluated.

At present, the government's use of data and emerging AI tools varies widely across agencies and is not guided by a single ethical framework. Although current laws address data privacy and cybersecurity, they do not fully account for the distinct risks that come with automated decision-making, especially in situations that affect access to public services, social benefits, or the exercise of legal rights.

Industry assessments show that while artificial intelligence is gaining traction across various sectors in the Philippines, the country's overall readiness and policy

¹ OECD Comparative Study, Rebooting Public Service Delivery: How Can Open Government Data Help to Drive Innovation?, available at: https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2016/02/rebooting-public-service-delivery-how-can-open-government-data-help-to-drive-innovation_360949e3/2eafc096-en.pdf (last accessed 18 February 2026)

coordination are still developing,² underscoring the need for a clear and unified framework to ensure its responsible use in government and in society.

This proposed measure seeks to respond to these gaps by establishing an Open Data and Responsible AI Foundation for Government. It pursues three main objectives: first, sustained investment in shared and open data platforms; second, the adoption of clear ethical guidelines for the development and use of AI, anchored on human rights, transparency, and accountability; and third, the rollout of citizen-centered AI services that promote inclusion, improve access to government programs, and ensure meaningful human oversight.

Central to this measure is the principle that AI in government should assist, not replace, human judgment, particularly in decisions that carry serious consequences or affect individual rights. For this reason, the bill requires agencies to conduct and document ethical and risk assessments before any AI system is deployed. It also ensures that individuals have access to human review, as well as clear avenues for appeal or correction. In addition, the measure mandates regular public reporting so that citizens are informed about how AI systems are being used, what data supports them, and what safeguards are in place to address potential risks.

By requiring regular transparency reports, public consultations, and independent oversight, this measure strengthens accountability and helps build public trust in the government's use of digital technologies. It likewise invests in the training and skills development of government personnel, recognizing that responsible adoption of technology depends not only on systems and software, but also on capable institutions and well-prepared public servants.

Ultimately, this bill affirms that technological progress must be matched by ethical responsibility. By investing in open data, setting clear rules for AI governance, and centering citizens in digital public services, the State can harness innovation while protecting rights, promoting fairness, and ensuring that AI serves the common good.

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



Rep. ROBERT NAZAL
Bagong Henerasyon Party-List

² The State of Artificial Intelligence in the Philippines, available at: <https://www.yondu.com/articles/the-state-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-philippines> (last accessed 18 February 2026)

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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 *“Open Data and Responsible AI Foundation Act.”*

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust by ensuring access to reliable and high-quality government data; to use artificial intelligence to improve the delivery of public services while protecting fundamental rights and democratic values; to require that AI systems in government are developed and used in an ethical and citizen-focused manner; to invest in secure and sustainable open data platforms; and to strengthen public oversight through regular reporting, citizen participation, and independent review.

SECTION 3. SCOPE AND COVERAGE.

This Act shall apply to:

- A. All national government agencies;
- B. Government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs);

- C. Constitutional commissions;
- D. State universities and colleges (SUCs);
- E. Local government units (LGUs), to the extent practicable and consistent with local autonomy; and
- F. Private entities contracting with government for the development, deployment, or maintenance of AI systems.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS.

The following definitions apply to the terms used in this Act:

- a) **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** refers to machine-based systems that, for a given set of objectives, can make predictions, recommendations, classifications, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments.
- b) **Open Data** refers to government data that is publicly available, machine-readable, non-proprietary, and reusable, subject to lawful restrictions relating to privacy, national security, and confidentiality.
- c) **Responsible AI** refers to the design, development, deployment, and use of AI systems that are ethical, lawful, transparent, accountable, inclusive, and aligned with human rights and democratic principles.
- d) **High-Risk AI Systems** refer to AI applications that may significantly affect individual rights, access to public services, eligibility for public benefits, law enforcement outcomes, employment, education, or legal determinations.
- e) **AI Impact Assessment** refers to a documented evaluation of potential risks, biases, legal implications, and societal impacts prior to the deployment of an AI system.
- f) **Prohibited AI Practices** refer to AI systems that intentionally manipulate vulnerable individuals, enable unlawful discrimination, or operate without legally required oversight.

SECTION 5. CREATION OF THE NATIONAL OPEN DATA AND RESPONSIBLE AI COUNCIL.

There is hereby created a National Open Data and Responsible AI Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council," with the following functions:

- A. Formulate and update national AI governance standards;
- B. Establish a mandatory risk classification system;

- C. Maintain a National AI System Registry;
- D. Issue templates for AI Impact Assessments;
- E. Conduct compliance monitoring and investigations;
- F. Recommend sanctions for violations;
- G. Submit an annual consolidated report to Congress.

The Council shall be chaired by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), with representation from:

- 1. National Privacy Commission
- 2. Department of Justice
- 3. National Economic and Development Authority
- 4. Civil Service Commission
- 5. Commission on Audit
- 6. Academe and civil society representatives

The National Privacy Commission shall serve as Secretariat.

SECTION 6. NATIONAL AI SYSTEM REGISTRY.

All government agencies deploying AI systems shall register such systems with the Council prior to operational deployment.

The Registry shall include the following:

- A. System name and function
- B. Risk classification
- C. Data sources
- D. Responsible agency officer
- E. Date of impact assessment
- F. Summary of safeguards

The Registry shall be publicly accessible, except for information restricted by national security or lawful confidentiality grounds.

SECTION 7. MANDATORY AI IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIIA).

Prior to deployment of any Moderate or High-Risk AI system, agencies shall conduct an AI Impact Assessment evaluating the following parameters:

- A. Potential bias and discrimination risks;
- B. Data accuracy and integrity;
- C. Privacy implications;
- D. Legal and constitutional implications;
- E. Impact on marginalized sectors;
- F. Mechanisms for appeal and correction;
- G. Human oversight protocols.

High-Risk AI systems shall undergo independent third-party review prior to full deployment.

SECTION 8. PROHIBITED AI PRACTICES.

The following uses of AI in government are prohibited:

- a) Systems that intentionally exploit vulnerable populations;
- b) Fully automated systems making final decisions affecting constitutional rights without human review;
- c) AI systems proven to produce systemic discrimination without mitigation measures; and
- d) Deployment of High-Risk AI without prior impact assessment.

SECTION 9. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OPEN DATA AND RESPONSIBLE AI FOUNDATION FOR GOVERNMENT.

There is hereby established a national policy framework, to be known as the Open Data and Responsible AI Foundation, to guide all government agencies in the use of open data and AI technologies, anchored on three (3) pillars: open data infrastructure and investment, ethical and responsible AI governance, and citizen-centric AI service delivery.

All national government agencies, government-owned or controlled corporations, and local government units shall align their digital transformation programs with this framework.

SECTION 10. OPEN DATA INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT.

All government agencies shall:

- a) Develop, maintain, and contribute to interoperable open data platforms in accordance with national data standards;
- b) Allocate resources to improve data quality, data management, and secure data-sharing protocols;
- c) Ensure that open data systems support AI development while strictly complying with privacy, cybersecurity, and confidentiality laws;
- d) Adopt common data formats to promote interoperability across agencies; and
- e) Encourage responsible use of government open data by researchers, civil society, and the private sector.

The national government shall prioritize funding for shared data infrastructure to avoid duplication and promote efficiency.

SECTION 11. ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE AI GUIDELINES.

The government shall adopt and implement Ethical and Responsible AI Guidelines requiring human oversight in government decision-making, transparency in AI-assisted decisions affecting individuals, safeguards against discrimination and bias, compliance with data privacy and other applicable laws, and the conduct of risk and impact assessments prior to the deployment of high-risk AI systems.

No AI system shall be deployed in government without undergoing a documented ethical and risk assessment.

SECTION 12. PROCUREMENT AND DEPLOYMENT SAFEGUARDS.

All procurement of AI systems by government agencies shall:

- a) Include transparency and auditability requirements in bidding documents;
- b) Require vendors to disclose system capabilities, limitations, and known risks;
- c) Ensure that government retains the ability to audit or review algorithmic outputs;
- d) Prohibit exclusive dependence on fully automated systems in high-risk decision-making without human review;
- e) Prohibit trade secrecy claims that prevent lawful audit;

SECTION 13. CITIZEN-CENTRIC AI SERVICES.

AI applications in government shall be designed to:

- a) Improve access to public services, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable sectors;
- b) Reduce administrative burdens and processing times;
- c) Provide accessible human review and appeal mechanisms;
- d) Inform citizens in plain language when AI systems are used.

No person shall be denied essential public services solely on the basis of automated decision-making without meaningful human intervention.

Citizens shall have the right to be informed when AI significantly affects a decision concerning them; request explanation of such decision; seek correction of inaccurate data; and request human review.

SECTION 14. TRANSPARENCY AND PERIODIC PUBLIC REPORTING.

All agencies using AI systems shall submit an Annual Open Data and AI Transparency Report to Congress and publish it on their official websites.

The report shall contain:

- a) A registry of AI systems in use;
- b) Their purpose, scope, and data sources;
- c) Risk classification and mitigation measures;
- d) Summary of impact assessments and audits; and
- e) Documented public complaints and resolutions.

The National Council shall submit a consolidated national report to Congress annually.

SECTION 15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT.

The government shall establish:

- A. Public consultation mechanisms for AI policy development;
- B. Independent audit procedures for High-Risk AI Systems;

C. Accessible grievance redress mechanisms.

Independent experts, civil society organizations, and academic institutions shall be invited to participate in review processes.

SECTION 16. CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.

The government shall invest in training programs on:

- A. Data governance;
- B. Responsible AI implementation;
- C. Algorithmic accountability;
- D. Human-centered digital service design.

Scholarships, fellowships, research grants, and public-private partnerships may be established to strengthen national AI expertise.

SECTION 17. ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY AND SANCTIONS.

Failure to comply with this Act may result in:

- A. Administrative liability of responsible public officials under existing civil service laws;
- B. Suspension of AI system deployment;
- C. Contract termination for non-compliant vendors;
- D. Referral to appropriate oversight or prosecutorial bodies when warranted.

SECTION 18. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.

Within three (3) years from effectivity, Congress shall conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of this Act to determine its effectiveness and recommend necessary amendments.

SECTION 19. FUNDING.

Such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Agencies may also utilize grants and partnerships, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 20. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The appropriate government agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 21. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 22. REPEALING CLAUSE.

All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, or regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 23. EFFECTIVITY.

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

Approved,