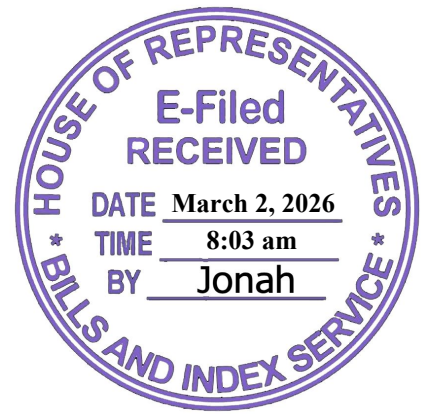


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8188



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This "red tape" acts as a barrier to the poor, who must spend their limited funds on transportation and processing fees just to prove they are eligible for aid.

This bill, the "Ease of Access to Social Services Act," seeks to:

1. Mandate a "Single Document" policy where possible.
2. Integrate the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) as the primary verification tool.
3. Prohibit agencies from requiring documents that the government already possesses in its databases.

By shifting the burden of verification from the citizen to the bureaucracy, we ensure that the government truly serves those it intends to help. In the age of digitalization, "processing" should never be an obstacle to "providing."

For a Filipino in crisis, the requirement to produce multiple original copies of certificates, clearances, and affidavits from various agencies is not just a burden; it is a barrier to survival.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8188

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT SIMPLIFYING THE DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR
ACCESSING GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 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 “Ease of Access
to Social Services Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote
the efficient delivery of social services. The State shall streamline the
processes for providing financial aid to ensure that assistance is responsive,
timely, and accessible to the poor and marginalized.

To this end, the State shall adopt measures to streamline procedures
and remove excessive documentary requirements for availing aid and
assistance from government agencies. This affirms the mandate of the State
with utmost responsibility and efficiency.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all national
government agencies (NGAs), including the Department of Social Welfare and
Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Labor
and Employment (DOLE), as well as Local Government Units (LGUs) providing
financial assistance.

SEC. 4. *Simplified Requirements.* –

- **Unified ID System:** The Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) ID shall serve as the primary and sufficient proof of identity and status. No other government-issued ID shall be required if a PhilID is presented.
- **Prohibition of Redundant Clearances:** Agencies are prohibited from requiring Barangay Clearances or Police Clearances if the applicant's residence can be verified through the PhilID or the DSWD *Listahanan* database.

- Digital Inter-operability: Within one (1) year of the effectivity of this Act, all implementing agencies must integrate their databases to verify the "Indigency Status" of an applicant automatically, removing the need for a physical "Certificate of Indigency."

SEC. 5. *The "One-Document Rule" for Emergencies.* – In cases of medical emergencies or immediate burial needs, the presentation of a single valid ID and a Hospital Bill/Medical Certificate or Death Certificate shall be sufficient for the initial release of at least 50% of the approved assistance amount. Remaining documents may be submitted within thirty (30) days post-release.

SEC. 6. *Penal Provisions.* – Any public official or employee who refuses to process an application due to the absence of a document not mandated by this Act, or who adds unauthorized requirements, shall be liable under Republic Act No. 11032 (Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The DSWD, in coordination with ARTA and the DBM, shall promulgate the IRR within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the Act or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *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,