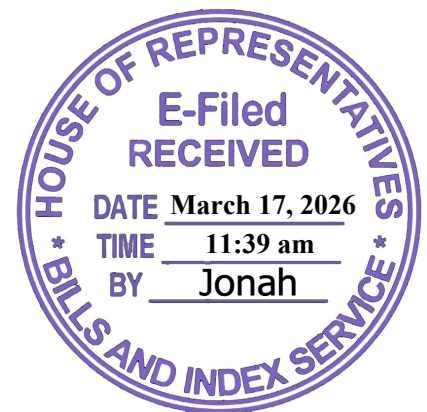


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8593



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT

CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS REGISTRY DATABANK, ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR INTEROPERABILITY WITH EXISTING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS DATABASES, PROMOTING MSME DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS MATCHMAKING, ENSURING DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of the Philippine economy. Yet many businesses still struggle to find partners, suppliers, and new markets because reliable information about companies is scattered across different government offices and local government units. When business data is fragmented or hard to access, entrepreneurs lose opportunities to connect, grow their networks, and expand their operations.

Several laws have already taken steps to improve the business information system. The Ease of Doing Business Act created a Central Business Portal and a Philippine Business Databank to help government agencies verify registered businesses. Other laws have also recognized the need for a national repository of business information and an online database for online transactions. These efforts are important, but they mainly focus on government verification and regulation, and they do not fully address the need for a platform that helps businesses discover and connect with one another.

This bill fills that gap by creating a Philippine Business Registry Databank under the Department of Trade and Industry. The proposed system will provide verified and standardized business profiles that make it easier for companies, especially MSMEs,

to find potential partners, suppliers, and markets. It will also work with existing government databases so that information can be shared efficiently without requiring businesses to repeatedly submit the same documents.

At the same time, the measure ensures strong protection for privacy, trade secrets, and sensitive information. Only necessary data will be collected, and safeguards will be put in place to prevent misuse. By improving access to reliable business information while protecting confidentiality, this bill aims to strengthen business connections, support MSME growth, and promote greater economic opportunities across the country.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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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 “*Philippine Business Registry Databank Act*.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to promote ease of doing business, trade and investments, MSME development, and evidence-based economic governance through secure electronic networking and information services, while protecting personal information and confidential business information in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173 and applicable jurisprudence.

SECTION 3. Creation of the Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD). — There is hereby created a Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD), which shall be a specialized national databank intended to: (a) provide verified business profiles for business-to-business (B2B) discovery and matchmaking; (b) facilitate access to government and private sector business development services, including training and market information; and (c) support trade and investment promotion through electronic networking.

The PBRD shall not replace the Philippine Business Databank (PBD) mandated under Republic Act No. 11032, but shall operate as a distinct system with a separate purpose and dataset, interoperable with the PBD and other relevant government systems.

SECTION 4. Relationship with the Philippine Business Databank (PBD), Central Business Portal (CBP), and Other Government Databases. —

- (a) **Interoperability.** — The PBRD shall be designed for interoperability with the PBD and CBP under Republic Act No. 11032, and with other government databases that contain business registration and permitting information, subject to lawful sharing and data minimization.
- (b) **No Duplication of Core Registration Data.** — The PBRD shall rely on the PBD (or the originating agency databases linked thereto) for verification of the existence and registration status of a business, to avoid duplicative collection of core registration information.
- (c) **Trade Secrets and Competition.** — Data sharing and publication under this Act shall at all times protect trade secrets and promote competition.

SECTION 5. Lead Implementing Agency; System Owner. — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall be the lead implementing agency and system owner of the PBRD, given its mandate on trade, investment promotion, and MSME development. The DTI shall coordinate with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to ensure interoperability standards, cybersecurity, and linkage with the PBD and CBP.

SECTION 6. Philippine Business Registry Governing Council. — A Philippine Business Registry Governing Council (Council) is hereby created to set policy direction and oversee implementation, composed of: (a) DTI, as Chair; (b) DICT, as Co-Chair; (c) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); (d) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); (e) Cooperative Development Authority (CDA); (f) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); (g) National Privacy Commission (NPC), as advisory member on privacy compliance; and (h) representatives from accredited business organizations with nationwide membership, as may be provided in the IRR, as non-voting private sector advisers.

SECTION 7. Data to be Contained in the PBRD; Data Minimization. — The PBRD shall contain only data that are necessary to accomplish the purposes of Section 3. It may include:

- (a) business name and trade name;
- (b) type of entity and primary registration reference numbers (as verified through PBD/originating agencies);
- (c) city/municipality of principal business address;
- (d) industry classification and products/services categories;
- (e) point-of-contact information for business inquiries, subject to consent and the Data Privacy Act;
- (f) certifications, quality standards, and capability statements voluntarily submitted by the business;
- (g) participation in government MSME programs, where disclosure is authorized by law or by the data subject; and
- (h) other fields as may be necessary and narrowly tailored under the IRR.

SECTION 8. Voluntary Enrollment and Consent-Based Fields. — Except for fields that may be sourced from existing government registries for verification (e.g., business existence/status), participation in the PBRD and publication of business profile fields shall be voluntary. Personal information fields, if any, shall be processed on the basis of consent or other lawful criteria under Republic Act No. 10173 and its IRR.

SECTION 9. Access and Publication Rules. —

- (a) Public Portal. — The DTI may operate a public portal that allows searching and viewing of limited business profile information intended for business matchmaking and trade promotion.
- (b) Restricted Government Access. — Government access shall be role-based and limited to official functions.
- (c) Prohibited Disclosures. — The PBRD shall not publish:
 - i. government-issued identification numbers;
 - ii. personal addresses of natural persons;
 - iii. confidential business information and trade secrets; and
 - iv. other information protected by law.

SECTION 10. Data Privacy, Security, and Audit. — The DTI and DICT shall implement appropriate organizational, physical, and technical measures to protect PBRD data, including authentication, encryption, access logs, retention schedules, and breach response measures, consistent with Republic Act No. 10173 and its IRR.

SECTION 11. Role of LGUs and Government Agencies. — LGUs and concerned NGAs shall cooperate with the DTI and DICT by: (a) enabling verification through linkage with the PBD and/or their databases consistent with Republic Act No. 11032; and (b) designating focal persons for technical coordination, data standards alignment, and quality assurance.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the PBRD to require LGUs to impose new fees or surcharges on business permits.

SECTION 12. Prohibited Acts and Penalties. — The IRR shall provide administrative and other appropriate sanctions for unauthorized access, misuse, or disclosure of PBRD information, without prejudice to the application of Republic Act No. 10173 and other relevant laws.

SECTION 13. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DTI, subject to budgeting, programming, and auditing rules. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, the DTI, in coordination with the DICT, DILG, SEC, CDA, PSA, and NPC, and after stakeholder consultations, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out this Act. The IRR shall include interoperability standards, consent and lawful processing rules, publication limits, security controls, and audit mechanisms.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. Repealing Clause. — All laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. This Act shall be construed in harmony with Republic Act No. 11032.

SECTION 17. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,