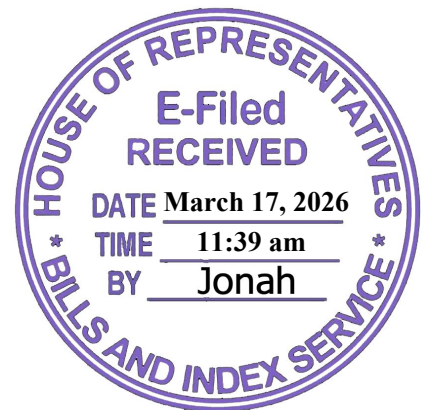


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8597



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY, PROVIDING FOR ITS
ADMINISTRATION, PRESCRIBING REGISTRATION DUTIES AND PENALTIES, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sexual offenses cause deep and lasting harm to victims and threaten public safety, especially for women and children. While offenders can be punished after conviction, the government must also take stronger steps to prevent repeat offenses and improve coordination among law enforcement agencies. One important tool is a reliable system that helps authorities monitor convicted offenders and share information when necessary to protect the public, while still respecting constitutional rights and privacy laws.

Current law already recognizes the need for such a system in cases involving child sexual exploitation. Republic Act No. 11930 created a registry for individuals convicted of online sexual abuse or exploitation of children and related offenses. The law requires authorities to maintain and update records, coordinate with law enforcement agencies, and share information when necessary to prevent danger to the public, while following the safeguards of the Data Privacy Act. However, the existing registry focuses mainly on offenses involving children, leaving gaps when it comes to other serious sexual offenses and the need for consistent nationwide monitoring.

This bill addresses that gap by establishing a National Sex Offender Registry under the Department of Justice. The proposed system will help law enforcement agencies

across the country identify and monitor convicted offenders, share information responsibly, and provide limited public access that promotes safety without exposing victims or encouraging misuse. By strengthening coordination while protecting privacy and the dignity of victims, this measure aims to improve public safety and prevent further harm.

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 “*Sex Offender Registry Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect the public, especially women and children, from sexual abuse and exploitation, and to strengthen law enforcement’s capacity to prevent, investigate, and prosecute sexual offenses, while respecting the constitutional rights to due process and privacy and the confidentiality of victims.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- (a) “**Registry**” or “**National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR)**” refers to a centralized, secure national database of Registrable Sex Offenders maintained for law enforcement coordination, risk management, and limited public information, as provided in this Act.
- (b) “**Registrable Sex Offender**” refers to any person who, by final judgment of a Philippine court, is convicted of any of the following:

- a. Rape and related offenses under the Revised Penal Code, as amended;
- b. Acts of lasciviousness and other felony offenses against chastity under the Revised Penal Code, as amended;
- c. Sexual violence under Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-VAWC Act), including Section 5(g), as amended;
- d. Such other offenses as may be expressly included by law where the gravamen involves sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or sexual violence.

For purposes of this Act, “Registrable Sex Offender” includes a person convicted by final judgment in a foreign jurisdiction of an offense substantially similar to those enumerated above, subject to verification and the procedures in Section 8.

(c) “**Law Enforcement Agency (LEA)**” refers to agencies authorized by law to prevent, investigate, or prosecute crimes, including the PNP, NBI, and other agencies as may be designated in the IRR.

(d) “**Public Website**” refers to the limited-access online portal for public information under Section 11 of this Act.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR). Lead and Support Agencies. — The NSOR is hereby established.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) shall be the lead implementing agency and system owner. The DOJ shall coordinate with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and local government units (LGUs) for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. Coordination With Existing Registries; Harmonization. — The NSOR shall be harmonized with existing offender registries created by law, including the OSAEC and CSAEM offenders registry under Republic Act No. 11930.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to repeal, diminish, or amend the duties, powers, and restrictions on disclosure provided under Republic Act No. 11930 and its implementing rules.

SECTION 6. Contents of the Registry; Required Information. — The NSOR shall contain, at a minimum, the following information for each Registrable Sex Offender:

- (a) Full name and known aliases;
- (b) Date and place of birth;
- (c) Recent photograph;
- (d) Current and permanent residential addresses and other contact information, as may be provided in the IRR;
- (e) Employment and school information, if applicable;
- (f) Fingerprints and other biometric identifiers as may be authorized by law and the IRR;
- (g) Complete criminal history relevant to registrable offenses, including the court, docket number, date of conviction, and penalty imposed; and
- (h) Such other information as may be necessary for accurate identification and risk management, subject to the Data Privacy Act and this Act.

SECTION 7. Duty to Register; When and Where to Register. — A Registrable Sex Offender shall register as follows:

- (a) If sentenced to imprisonment: prior to release from confinement, the offender shall accomplish initial registration through the facility and the appropriate LEA, in coordination with the DOJ.
- (b) If sentenced to a non-custodial penalty or otherwise not confined: the offender shall register within fifteen (15) days from finality of judgment.
- (c) The offender shall register in the city or municipality of residence. The offender shall likewise report any place of work or school, if applicable, in the manner provided by the IRR.

SECTION 8. Foreign Convictions; Verification and Due Process. — A person convicted by final judgment in a foreign jurisdiction of an offense substantially similar to a registrable offense shall be included in the NSOR only upon:

- (a) submission or acquisition of authenticated or otherwise verifiable records of conviction; and
- (b) a determination by the DOJ, after notice and opportunity to be heard, that the foreign offense is substantially similar to a registrable offense and that the identity of the offender is established.

The IRR shall provide the procedure, timelines, and remedies, including administrative appeal within the DOJ, without prejudice to judicial remedies under existing laws.

SECTION 9. Updating; Change of Address/Status; Periodic In-Person Verification. — Registrable Sex Offenders shall:

- (a) update any change in residence, employment, or school within ten (10) days from such change; and
- (b) appear in person at least once every year for verification of identity and updating of records, in the manner provided by the IRR.

SECTION 10. Duration of Registration. — Unless otherwise provided by subsequent law, registration shall be for life.

Provided, That the IRR shall prescribe reasonable classification and reporting frequencies based on objective factors, consistent with this Act, without shortening the lifetime inclusion mandated herein.

SECTION 11. Public Website; Scope of Publicly Disclosable Information. — The DOJ shall maintain a Public Website that may disclose only the following information:

- (a) Name of the offender;
- (b) Recent photograph;
- (c) City/municipality of residence (not exact address);
- (d) The registrable offense/s of conviction and date of conviction; and
- (e) Such other limited information as may be authorized by the IRR, consistent with public safety and the Data Privacy Act.

The Public Website shall not disclose the identity of victims, exact residential addresses, personal contact details, or any information that would endanger victims, witnesses, or the offender’s minor children or household members.

LGUs shall not establish separate public registries inconsistent with this Act. LGUs may, however, maintain local access portals integrated with the NSOR for LEA use, subject to DOJ standards.

SECTION 12. Access for Law Enforcement; Data Sharing; Security. — Full access to the NSOR shall be limited to authorized LEAs and other authorized government agencies as may be provided by the IRR, subject to strict authentication, logging, and data security standards.

Information sharing with foreign jurisdictions shall be allowed only through official channels and subject to verification and safeguards under the IRR and applicable laws.

SECTION 13. Prohibited Acts and Penalties. —

- (a) Failure to Register or Update. — Any Registrable Sex Offender who knowingly and willfully fails to register, verify, or update required information under Sections 7 to 9 shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of one (1) year to five (5) years and a fine of Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) to Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00), at the discretion of the court.
- (b) Misuse or Unauthorized Disclosure. — Any person who, without authority, accesses, discloses, leaks, sells, or uses NSOR information beyond the purposes authorized by this Act and the IRR shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of two (2) years to six (6) years and a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00), without prejudice to liability under other laws.
- (c) False Information. — Any Registrable Sex Offender who knowingly provides false material information to the NSOR shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of one (1) year to six (6) years and a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) to Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00).

SECTION 14. Public Information and Education. — The DOJ, in coordination with the DILG, PNP, DICT, DepEd, and LGUs, shall conduct continuing public information and education campaigns on the existence, purpose, and proper use of the Public Website, including warnings against harassment, vigilantism, and misuse of registry information.

SECTION 15. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DOJ. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOJ, in coordination with the DILG, PNP, NBI, DICT, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall be consistent with this Act and shall be limited to filling in the details necessary for implementation.

SECTION 17. 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 18. Repealing Clause. — All laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 19. 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,