

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8797



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Optical Media Board (OMB) was established by Republic Act No. 9239 in 2003 to regulate the manufacture, mastering, and replication of optical media (CDs, DVDs, and VCDs) during a period when physical piracy was at its peak. For over two decades, the OMB served as the primary shield against the unauthorized reproduction of copyrighted content in physical formats.

However, the rapid advancement of technology has fundamentally changed how Filipinos consume media. We have moved from the era of physical discs to a digital-first economy dominated by high-speed internet, cloud storage, and streaming platforms. In 2026, the relevance of optical media has dwindled to near-obsolence. The regulatory framework of the OMB, which focuses heavily on the "manufacturing" of physical storage devices, no longer addresses the modern challenges of digital piracy and online intellectual property (IP) infringement.

This bill seeks to abolish the Optical Media Board and transfer its remaining powers and functions to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL). This transition is guided by three primary objectives:

1. Right-Sizing the Government: To eliminate redundant bureaucratic functions and optimize the use of public funds by merging agencies with overlapping mandates.
2. Centralized IP Enforcement: To consolidate the country's intellectual property enforcement under a single, specialized agency (IPOPHL) that is better equipped to handle both physical and digital IP rights violations.
3. Modernizing Regulation: To shift the focus from regulating obsolete hardware to protecting content in the digital landscape.

By integrating the OMB's enforcement functions into the IPOPHL, we ensure a more streamlined, efficient, and cost-effective approach to protecting the creative industry in the Philippines.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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

AN ACT ABOLISHING THE OPTICAL MEDIA BOARD (OMB), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "OPTICAL MEDIA ACT OF 2003," AND TRANSFERRING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS TO THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES (IPOPHL), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "OMB Abolition and IP Enforcement Streamlining Act."

SEC. 2. Establishment. - It is the policy of the State to promote the efficient delivery of government services and to optimize the use of resources by eliminating agencies that have become redundant. The State also recognizes the need to protect intellectual property rights in a manner that is responsive to technological advancements.

SEC. 3. Abolition of the Optical Media Board. – The Optical Media Board (OMB), created under Republic Act No. 9239, is hereby abolished.

SEC. 4. Transfer of Functions, Powers, and Assets. – The powers and functions of the OMB under Republic Act No. 9239 are hereby transferred to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL). All applicable funds, records, equipment, property, and other assets of the OMB are likewise transferred to the IPOPHL.

SEC. 5. Absorption and Separation of Personnel. –

1. **Absorption:** Affected permanent employees of the OMB may be absorbed by the IPOPHL or other agencies under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), subject to existing civil service laws and the evaluation of their professional qualifications.
2. **Separation Benefits:** Any employee who is not absorbed or who chooses to retire voluntarily shall be entitled to separation benefits and incentives under Republic Act No. 6656 (An Act to Protect the Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and Employees in the Implementation of Government Reorganization) and other existing laws.

SEC. 6. *Transition Period.* – A transition period of not more than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act shall be allowed for the full transfer of functions and assets. During this period, the Director General of the IPOPHL, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall oversee the transition.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the IPOPHL, the DTI, and the DBM shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 9.. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,