

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9243**



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL POLICE CLEARANCE SYSTEM,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For the longest time, the Philippine police clearance was a fragmented relic of a localized past. If you moved from one town to another, your clearance document was often only as good as the filing cabinet in the local station. In this day and age, where mobility is constant and criminal elements can leap across provincial borders with a single bus ride or a digital transaction, a localized system is no longer just inefficient—it is a security risk. The National Police Clearance System (NPCS) Act is the long-awaited and much-needed upgrade to our nation's "security software," replacing a patchwork of local records with a single, synchronized, and formidable digital shield.

The National Police Clearance System centralizes the truth. By consolidating records of crime incidents, warrants of arrest, fingerprints, and ballistic data into one national database, we eliminate the "blind spots" that fugitives and repeat offenders have exploited for decades. This is not just about administrative convenience; it is about integrity. In a world where identity theft and fraud are rampant, having a singular, verifiable document that proves an individual's standing before the law is the bedrock of trust in both social and professional interactions.

For the stakeholders involved, this legislation is a game-changer. For employers and businesses, it provides a reliable, gold-standard vetting tool, ensuring that the people they bring into their organizations have been screened against a national—not just local—database. For law enforcement officers, it is a powerful investigative weapon, giving them real-time access to a suspect's history across the entire archipelago. Most importantly, for citizens and jobseekers, it slashes through the red tape. Instead of securing multiple clearances for different purposes or locations, a Filipino now only needs one primary document that is recognized nationwide, simplifying their lives while protecting their reputations.

On a broader scale, this Act is a pillar for a modern Philippine society. By integrating Information and Communications Technology (ICT) into our police services, we are effectively “draining the swamp” of bureaucratic corruption and long queues. It signals to the world that our country is a safe place for investment and residency, governed by a state that values efficiency and the rule of law. Furthermore, it balances security with the sanctity of the Data Privacy Act, ensuring that while we are being protected, our personal information is handled with the highest level of confidentiality and respect. It is, ultimately, a commitment to a safer, more transparent, and more connected Philippines.

The “National Police Clearance System Act” formally establishes the Philippine National Police (PNP) as the central architect and custodian of a nationwide record-keeping system. Under this law, the National Police Clearance becomes the primary and sole government document for verifying an individual’s criminal or derogatory history in all transactions with the PNP. Beyond simple names and dates, the system is mandated to maintain comprehensive data, including fingerprints, ballistic records, and photos of arrested or wanted persons. This ensures that the clearance is not just a piece of paper, but a reflection of a robust, multi-layered background check.

The Act also places a heavy premium on accessibility and privacy. While the PNP is authorized to collect reasonable fees to fund its “Capability Enhancement Programs,” the law strictly upholds the First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act, meaning those entering the workforce for the first time can obtain their clearance for free. To prevent the misuse of this powerful database, the bill includes strict penal provisions: any official or individual who breaches the confidentiality of the system or processes a clearance without the subject’s consent faces up to a year in prison and significant fines. This ensures that the NPCCS remains a tool for public safety, rather than a weapon for personal or malicious exploitation.

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



HON. PHILIP CONRAD “DOK BONG” M. ACOP

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “National Police Clearance System Act”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure public safety through a highly efficient, competent and modernized police force and the use of information and communications technology. Furthermore, the state shall improve in the delivery of service by reducing bureaucratic red tape and preventing corruption while ensuring the protection of the fundamental human right of privacy.

SEC. 3. National Police Clearance System. – The National Police Clearance System (NPCS) is hereby established. The Philippine National Police (PNP) shall be the government agency responsible for the effective operationalization of the NPCS including, but not limited to, maintenance of a national record of all reported crime incidents, warrants of arrest, pictures and personal details of arrested and wanted persons, fingerprints and ballistic examination records and other relevant information.

SEC. 4. National Police Clearance. – The National Police Clearance shall be the primary government certificate or document indicating the presence or absence of any criminal and/or derogatory records in the Philippines of any individual.

The National Police Clearance shall also be the sole government certificate or document that will be required in all PNP transactions for verifying the presence or absence of any criminal and/or derogatory records in the Philippines of the individual transacting with the PNP.

SEC. 5. *Processing of Information.* – The processing of information under the NPCCS shall be subject to Sec. 11, 12, and 13 of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012.”

SEC. 6. *Issuance of National Police Clearance.* – Any person may request for the issuance of their National Police Clearance from the PNP. In line with this, the PNP may determine, fix and collect reasonable amounts to be charged as administrative fees for the issuance of the police clearance, provided, that no fees and other charges shall be collected from the first time jobseekers when obtaining such police clearance as mandated by Republic Act No. 11261, otherwise known as the “First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act”.

SEC. 7. *Confidentiality.* – The Philippine National Police shall ensure at all times the confidentiality of any personal information that comes to its possession or obtained as a requirement for the issuance of a Police Clearance under the Preceding section.

SEC. 8. *Penal Provision.* – (a) Any person, who breach the confidentiality of information contained in the NPCCS, whether by carelessness, improper behavior, behavior with malicious intent, and use of confidential information for profit, shall be penalized by imprisonment of three (3) months but not to exceed one (1) year and a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00), subject to the degree of breach of information;

(b) The unauthorized processing of National Police Clearance without the consent of the subject individual shall be penalized by imprisonment of three (3) months but not to exceed one (1) year and a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

SEC. 9. *Capability Enhancement Programs of the PNP.* – Collections from the issuance of national police clearance shall be utilized to support the Capability Enhancement Programs of the PNP.

SEC. 10. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the current year’s appropriation of the PNP. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PNP shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,