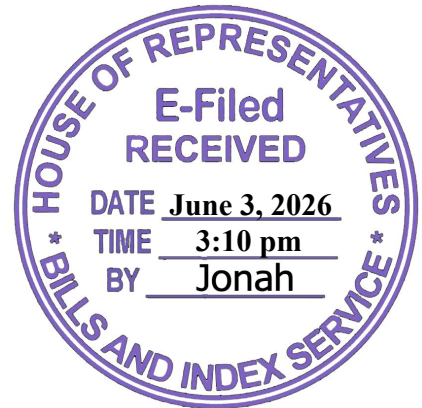


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9725



Introduced by Representative Kenneth T. Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent years, the Philippines has uncovered the presence of transnational organized crimes within its borders, ranging from illegal gambling and large-scale scams to cybercrime and human trafficking. These operations persisted for years despite existing enforcement structures, underscoring gaps in detection, intelligence-sharing, and investigative capacity.

While the Philippine National Police is primarily responsible for maintaining peace and order at the local level, the National Bureau of Investigation is mandated to investigate complex, transnational, and high-profile crimes, including graft and corruption, cybercrime, and human trafficking. However, the rapidly evolving nature of these threats – driven by digital platforms, encrypted communications, and cross-border syndicates – demands a corresponding upgrade in the NBI's technological, forensic, and intelligence capabilities.

At present, constraints in funding, equipment, and personnel limit the NBI's ability to fully perform its mandate. Many of its investigative processes remain constrained by outdated tools, insufficient forensic infrastructure, and limited access to advanced cybercrime technologies. Moreover, the increasing

volume and sophistication of cases require highly specialized training, inter-agency coordination, and sustained investment in modern investigative systems.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by providing dedicated modernization funding for the NBI and strengthening its institutional structure. It aims to support the acquisition of advanced forensic equipment, enhancement of cybercrime and intelligence capabilities, development of modern digital investigative systems, and expansion of specialized services within the Bureau. It likewise promotes improved personnel welfare and professional development, as well as a more sustainable funding mechanism through authorized retention of service-related revenues, ensuring the long-term operational efficiency of the agency.

By investing in the institutional strength of the NBI, the State affirms its commitment to upholding the rule of law, protecting national security, and ensuring that justice is swift, effective, and responsive to emerging threats.

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



KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9725

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND
ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION (NBI), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the *National Bureau of
Investigation Modernization Act.*

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
to ensure the development of an effective, modern, professional, and highly trained
investigative institution that is nationally integrated and responsive to emerging and
complex forms of criminality.

Towards this end, the State shall strengthen the National Bureau of
Investigation (NBI) through institutional modernization, expanded capability,
enhanced manpower, and upgraded technological and forensic resources to ensure
efficient law enforcement and the effective administration of justice.

1
2 **SEC. 3. *Modernization and Institutional Expansion.*** – The NBI is hereby
3 modernized to effectively respond to the increasing demands of complex
4 investigative and intelligence work.

5 A comprehensive modernization program shall be implemented, which shall
6 include:

- 7 a. Acquisition of state-of-the-art investigative, forensic, and intelligence
8 equipment;
9 b. Establishment and upgrading of forensic, cybercrime, and scientific
10 laboratories;
11 c. Development of advanced digital and data analytics systems for
12 investigation and intelligence; and
13 d. Continuous training and professional development of personnel.
14

15 The NBI shall likewise undergo organizational restructuring, creating the
16 following offices:

- 17 • Office of the Director
18 • Office of the Deputy Director for Administration
19 • Office of the Deputy Director for Operations
20 • Investigation Service
21 • Intelligence Service
22 • Comptroller Service
23 • Human Resource and Management Service
24 • Forensic and Scientific Research Service
25 • Legal Service
26 • Information and Communications Technology Service
27

28 Each service shall be supported by such divisions and units as may be
29 necessary for efficient operations.

1 **SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions of NBI Agents.*** – The agents of the NBI shall
2 have the following powers and functions:

- 3 a. Conduct investigations in accordance with the mandate of the NBI;
- 4 b. Execute searches, arrests, and seizures consistent with law and applicable
5 rules;
- 6 c. Take sworn statements and affidavits from persons relevant to
7 investigations;
- 8 d. Administer oaths in connection with official investigations; and
- 9 e. Perform such other functions as may be authorized by the Director of the
10 NBI.

11 **SEC. 5. *Benefits and Privileges.*** – To ensure efficiency, welfare and
12 retention of personnel, the NBI shall provide the following benefits, subject to
13 applicable laws:

- 14 a. Health care coverage through an accredited Health Maintenance
15 Organization (HMO);
- 16 b. Comprehensive accident insurance for all personnel;
- 17 c. Training, scholarships, and professional development programs;
- 18 d. Longevity pay in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the NBI
19 and approved by the Department of Budget and Management;
- 20 e. Hazard pay pursuant to existing laws; and
- 21 f. Transportation assistance or service vehicles, subject to procurement
22 rules and budget availability.

23
24 **SEC. 6. *Professional Development Support.*** – The NBI shall shoulder
25 reasonable expenses for:

- 26 a. Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for licensed lawyers in
27 its service;

- b. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or equivalent requirements for licensed professionals employed by the NBI; and
- c. Seminar, training, registration, and professional membership fees directly related to official functions.

CHAPTER II

APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 7. *Retention of Fees and Self-Funded Modernization.* – The NBI is authorized to retain and utilize up to forty percent (40%) of its annual collections from clearance and related service fees for modernization, capacity building, and operational expenses, including capital outlay, training, and professional development:

Provided, That total retention shall not exceed Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000.00) annually, unless otherwise authorized by law.

SEC. 8. *Funding Source.* – The funds required for the implementation of this Act, including employee benefits, shall be taken from:

- a) Collections from NBI clearance and certification fees;
- b) Incidental income from trainings, tests, and the like;
- c) Proceeds from the sale of confiscated/forfeited articles after public auction from the cases investigated by the NBI upon order of the court;
- d) Other fees which may be determined and imposed by the Director; and
- e) The General Appropriations Act.

CHAPTER III

SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 9. *Transitory Provision.* – All affected offices, systems, and personnel shall be given a reasonable transition period, as determined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), to ensure full compliance with this Act.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

This shall be under the supervision of the NBI Director, in coordination with the Secretary of Justice.

CHAPTER IV

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,