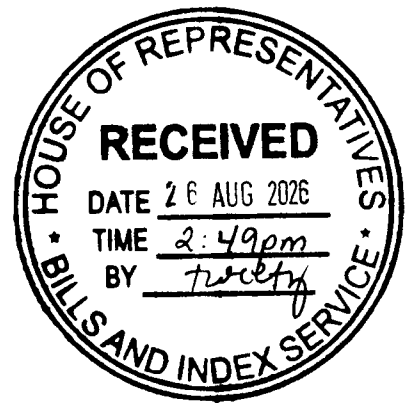


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10976



Introduced by: Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list
Representative Iris Marie D. Montes

AN ACT
UNIFYING THE NATIONAL POLICE CLEARANCE SYSTEM AND NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION CLEARANCE SYSTEM, CREATING THE UNIFIED CRIMINAL CLEARANCE SYSTEM DATABASE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the promotion of a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, and improve the quality of life of all. Government services must therefore be designed not only to fulfill administrative requirements, but also to serve the people with efficiency, convenience, and fairness.

For millions of Filipinos, securing a Police Clearance and an NBI Clearance is a routine requirement for employment, travel, business transactions, permits, and other legitimate purposes. Yet, despite serving substantially related purposes, these clearances are presently obtained through separate systems and transactions. This may require applicants to pay separate fees, travel to different locations, wait in separate queues, and repeatedly submit similar information.

This duplication places a disproportionate burden on ordinary citizens. For a jobseeker, the cost of two clearances may represent a meaningful portion of limited resources. For a worker, obtaining separate clearances may mean lost working hours and income. For those living far from clearance centers, it may require additional transportation expenses and time away from their families and livelihoods. What should be a simple government transaction can consequently become an unnecessary financial and administrative burden.

The proposed Unified Criminal Clearance System seeks to change this.

The measure will establish a unified system through which a single criminal clearance issued by either the Philippine National Police (PNP) or the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) may satisfy the requirement for a Police Clearance or NBI Clearance for employment, travel, business transactions, permits, and other legitimate purposes.

The principal benefit is simple: one clearance, one transaction, and less burden for the Filipino people.

By integrating the relevant information systems of the PNP and NBI, the measure will eliminate unnecessary duplication in the issuance of related clearances while preserving the separate mandates and functions of the two agencies.

The proposed system will provide greater convenience to citizens. Applicants will no longer have to determine which separate clearance is required when the purpose of the transaction can be satisfied by a unified document. A person may obtain the Unified Criminal Clearance through the authorized clearance system of either agency, reducing unnecessary trips, queues, and documentary requirements.

It will also provide financial savings. By eliminating the need to obtain and pay for separate clearances, citizens can avoid duplicate fees and reduce transportation and other incidental expenses associated with multiple transactions.

The measure will likewise save time and protect the productivity of workers and jobseekers. Fewer government transactions mean fewer hours spent waiting in queues or traveling to government offices. For workers paid on a daily basis, entrepreneurs, and applicants seeking employment, the time saved can translate directly into retained income and greater economic opportunity.

The bill will particularly benefit first-time jobseekers and low-income Filipinos, for whom the cost and time involved in securing multiple government documents can become a significant barrier to employment. Simplifying the clearance process can help ensure that compliance with government requirements does not itself become an obstacle to finding work.

The proposed system will also make government services more accessible. By allowing a Unified Criminal Clearance to be issued through either the PNP or NBI clearance system, the measure can reduce the need for applicants to navigate separate bureaucratic processes and make clearance services more responsive to the public.

For businesses and employers, the measure can simplify employment and administrative processes by establishing a single, standardized clearance that may be accepted wherever a Police Clearance or NBI Clearance is required. This can reduce processing time and administrative costs while facilitating faster employment and business transactions.

The integration of the two systems can also improve government efficiency. Instead of maintaining substantially duplicative processes for related clearance requirements, the government can harmonize relevant information systems, reduce repetitive transactions, and make better use of existing digital infrastructure and government resources.

The concept is not without precedent. Former PNP Chief General Camilo Cascolan previously disclosed that the PNP and NBI had been exploring the

possibility of a unified clearance system. The proposal specifically contemplated a single clearance that could be used for employment and other purposes, recognizing that requiring applicants to separately secure and pay for both clearances create unnecessary duplication. The discussion likewise recognized the need to harmonize the separate systems maintained by the two agencies.¹

The proposed legislation therefore transforms this policy direction into a clear statutory commitment to simpler, faster, and more citizen-centered government service.

At the same time, unification shall not compromise public safety, law enforcement, or the privacy rights of individuals. The system shall be subject to appropriate safeguards on data accuracy, security, privacy, lawful access, and due process. The integration of information shall likewise not be construed as merging the distinct institutional mandates of the PNP and NBI.

Ultimately, the measure advances a simple principle: government requirements should protect the public interest without unnecessarily burdening the public.

A Filipino seeking employment should not have to spend additional money and valuable time securing two separate documents when one government clearance can fulfill the same legitimate requirement. A worker should not have to sacrifice a day's income merely to complete redundant transactions. A business should not have to navigate unnecessary documentary requirements when government systems can be integrated.

The Unified Criminal Clearance System will reduce red tape, lower compliance costs, save time, improve accessibility, strengthen government efficiency, and make public services more responsive to the needs of the Filipino people.

It is a practical and meaningful step toward a government that is simpler to navigate, less costly to transact with, and more respectful of the time and resources of every Filipino.

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


IRIS MARIE D. MONTES
Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan
at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list

¹ PNP, NBI explores possibility of a unified clearance system, Aaron Recuenco, Manila Bulletin, Oct 14, 2020 (<https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/14/pnp-nbi-explores-possibilit-of-a-unified-clearance-system/>) Accessed on 04 August 2026

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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 "Unified Criminal Clearance System."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure efficient delivery of government services to its citizens and the streamlining of procedures and requirements necessary for business and nonbusiness transactions in the government. To this end, the State shall maintain a unified system for related information to curtail redundant government clearances with the ultimate goal of reduction of red tape within the bureaucracy.

SEC 3. *Creation of the Unified Criminal Clearance System Database.* - The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) shall, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), create a central database of all criminal records and cases, active warrants, local and national blotters, biometric data, and other applicable information relative to the issuance of a clearance.

SEC. 4. *Unified Criminal Clearance.* - For purposes of local and overseas employment, travel, business transactions, issuance of permits, and all other purposes which require an NBI or Police Clearance, a Unified Criminal Clearance shall be issued by the NBI or PNP through their respective clearance centers. The Unified Criminal Clearance issued by either NBI or PNP shall suffice the requirement of a clearance without the necessity of obtaining separate clearances from both agencies.

It shall be unlawful for any person, both juridical or natural, public or private, to require the submission of separate clearances from the PNP or NBI.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Agency.* - The NBI, in coordination with the PNP, shall be the main implementing agency for the creation and maintenance of the Unified Law Enforcement Clearance System Database.

SEC. 6. *Funding.* - The funding necessary for the implementation of the Unified Law Enforcement Clearance System Database shall come from the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The NBI, in coordination with the PNP and the DICT, shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instructions, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,