



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

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **11095**



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The OTOP Philippines Act, or Republic Act No. 11960, provides the statutory framework for the One Town, One Product (OTOP) Philippines Program and establishes the OTOP Program Management Office (OTOP-PMO) as the principal institutional mechanism for its implementation.

As the OTOP Program continues to develop, there is a need for a more systematic, reliable, and integrated mechanism for identifying, documenting, monitoring, promoting, and supporting OTOP enterprises, producers, makers, and products throughout the country.

The establishment of an OTOP Philippines Registry will provide such a mechanism. The Registry will facilitate the development of a centralized and regularly updated source of information that may be used to improve program implementation, policy formulation, market development, technical assistance, financing, capacity-building, and coordination among national government agencies, local government units, and OTOP stakeholders.

This measure therefore proposes an important structural improvement: rather than establishing the Registry through a separate and potentially overlapping statute, it expressly integrates the Registry into the existing statutory framework of Republic Act No. 11960.

Specifically, this measure amends Section 11 of Republic Act No. 11960 and inserts a new Section 11-A expressly placing the OTOP Philippines Registry under the administrative and operational authority of the OTOP-PMO.

This approach preserves the institutional architecture already established by law while providing the Registry with a clear and specific statutory mandate. It avoids the

creation of a separate government office or parallel administrative structure and reduces the possibility of overlapping functions, conflicting mandates, duplicative databases, and unnecessary government expenditures.

The measure likewise provides safeguards for the protection of personal, confidential, proprietary, and commercially sensitive information and expressly requires compliance with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012, and other applicable laws.

The proposed Registry is intended not merely as a database, but as an integrated government mechanism that can strengthen the implementation of the OTOP Program and improve the ability of government to identify, support, promote, and develop Filipino micro, small, and medium enterprises and local products.

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



KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI

1 LPOs), participating government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders in ensuring the
2 effective implementation and operation of the Registry.

3 A new Section 11-A is hereby inserted after Section 11 of Republic Act No. 11960. to read
4 as follows:

5 **“SEC. 11-A. OTOP PHILIPPINES REGISTRY. — THERE IS HEREBY**
6 **ESTABLISHED AN OTOP PHILIPPINES REGISTRY, WHICH SHALL FORM AN**
7 **INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THE OTOP PROGRAM AND SHALL BE**
8 **ADMINISTERED AND MAINTAINED BY THE OTOP PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**
9 **OFFICE (OTOP-PMO).**

10 **THE REGISTRY SHALL SERVE AS THE OFFICIAL AND CENTRALIZED**
11 **INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR QUALIFIED OTOP**
12 **ENTERPRISES, PRODUCTS, PRODUCE**

13 **RS, MAKERS, AND OTHER PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS COVERED BY**
14 **THIS ACT, SUBJECT TO SUCH CLASSIFICATIONS, ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS,**
15 **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES, AND STANDARDS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW**
16 **AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

17 **THE REGISTRY SHALL, AMONG OTHERS:**

18 **(A) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN AUTHORITATIVE AND REGULARLY**
19 **UPDATED DATABASE OF REGISTERED OTOP ENTERPRISES, PRODUCERS,**
20 **MAKERS, PRODUCTS, AND OTOP LOCAL PRODUCT OFFERINGS;**

21 **(B) FACILITATE THE IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION, MONITORING,**
22 **PROMOTION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF QUALIFIED OTOP ENTERPRISES AND**
23 **PRODUCTS;**

1 **(C) PROVIDE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL**
2 **GOVERNMENT UNITS, DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER**
3 **AUTHORIZED STAKEHOLDERS WITH APPROPRIATE INFORMATION**
4 **NECESSARY TO SUPPORT OTOP-RELATED PROGRAMS, POLICIES, MARKET**
5 **DEVELOPMENT, FINANCING, CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,**
6 **AND OTHER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT;**

7 **(D) PROMOTE INTEROPERABILITY AND, WHERE LEGALLY PERMISSIBLE,**
8 **DATA-SHARING WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND**
9 **DATABASES TO MINIMIZE DUPLICATION OF REGISTRATION AND REPORTING**
10 **REQUIREMENTS;**

11 **(E) ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE MECHANISMS FOR THE VERIFICATION,**
12 **UPDATING, CORRECTION, SUSPENSION, OR REMOVAL OF REGISTRY**
13 **INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS, RULES, AND**
14 **REGULATIONS;**

15 **(F) GENERATE STATISTICAL, POLICY, AND PROGRAM-MANAGEMENT**
16 **INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND**
17 **EVALUATION OF THE OTOP PROGRAM; AND**

18 **(G) PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO**
19 **CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OTOP PHILIPPINES ACT.**

20 **THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE REGISTRY SHALL NOT BE**
21 **CONSTRUED AS CREATING A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT, BUREAU, OFFICE,**
22 **AGENCY, OR GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATION. THE**
23 **REGISTRY SHALL REMAIN UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL**
24 **AUTHORITY OF THE OTOP-PMO AND SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE**
25 **EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE OTOP PROGRAM.**

1 **THE OTOP-PMO SHALL ENSURE THAT THE REGISTRY IS IMPLEMENTED**
2 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**
3 **‘DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012,’ AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS, RULES, AND**
4 **REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE COLLECTION, PROCESSING, STORAGE,**
5 **DISCLOSURE, SECURITY, AND RETENTION OF INFORMATION.**

6 **THE OTOP-PMO MAY PRESCRIBE REASONABLE DOCUMENTARY,**
7 **TECHNICAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY FOR**
8 **REGISTRATION AND VERIFICATION, PROVIDED THAT SUCH REQUIREMENTS**
9 **SHALL NOT UNDULY BURDEN MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES,**
10 **COMMUNITY-BASED PRODUCERS, ARTISANS, FARMERS, FISHERFOLK,**
11 **INDIGENOUS PRODUCERS, AND OTHER INTENDED BENEFICIARIES OF THE**
12 **OTOP PROGRAM.”**

13 **SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from the
14 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Trade and Industry, through the OTOP-PMO and in
15 consultation with relevant government agencies, local government units, OTOP stakeholders, and
16 other concerned sectors, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective
17 implementation of this Act.

18 The implementing rules and regulations shall, among others, establish:

19 (a) the eligibility and registration requirements for inclusion in the OTOP Philippines
20 Registry;

21 (b) procedures for registration, verification, updating, suspension, and removal of Registry
22 records;

23 (c) appropriate data-sharing and interoperability protocols;

(d) safeguards for confidential, personal, proprietary, and commercially sensitive information;

(e) mechanisms for coordination between the OTOP-PMO, DTI Regional and Provincial Offices, LGUs, and other relevant agencies; and

(f) procedures for monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and continuous improvement of the Registry.

SEC. 3. *Data Privacy and Protection of Information.* -- Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the unrestricted collection, processing, disclosure, or publication of personal, confidential, proprietary, or commercially sensitive information.

All information collected and processed under the Registry shall be handled in accordance with applicable data privacy, cybersecurity, confidentiality, intellectual property, and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

Only information authorized for public disclosure shall be made publicly accessible through the Registry or any related platform.

SEC. 4. *Funding.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Trade and Industry and the OTOP Program, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation, maintenance, enhancement, and administration of the OTOP Philippines Registry shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The implementation of the Registry shall, to the extent practicable, utilize existing personnel, systems, infrastructure, information technology resources, and institutional

mechanisms of the OTOP-PMO and the Department of Trade and Industry in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of government resources.

SEC. 5. ***Harmonization with Existing Laws and Programs.*** -- All provisions of Republic Act No. 11960 and other laws, rules, regulations, and issuances relating to the OTOP Program shall be construed, to the extent practicable, consistently with the provisions of this Act.

Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as diminishing, transferring, or duplicating the existing powers, functions, or responsibilities of the OTOP-PMO, the Department of Trade and Industry, OTOP Local Product Offerings, local government units, or other government agencies under Republic Act No. 11960 and other applicable laws.

The OTOP Philippines Registry shall function as an integrated component of the existing OTOP institutional framework.

SEC. 6. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,