

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



23 FEB -9 P2:00

SENATE
S. No. 1856

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
ALLOWING THE USE OF DIGITAL COPY OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS IN
GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Identification Card (ID) plays a significant role in the society. In fact, in the Philippines, a person without a valid government issued ID will have a hard time availing and/or accessing public services (i.e. discount for PWDs and application for new government IDs) or worst will not be able to avail of these services at all.

In this digital age, almost all Philippine government Offices requires a person to register in its system before an ID can be acquired. While it cannot be argued that physical IDs are still important, it is quite unusual that there is still a need to present physical ID before a person can validly transact with the government especially since the present technology allows immediate presentation/verification of a person's ID thru photos or scanned digital copy stored in mobile phones or tablets.

If daily transactions already allow digital payments, the more reason that presenting a digital copy of ID should be allowed during government transactions. This is already seen as acceptable when the Philippines allowed presenting digital copy of vaccination cards before entering an establishment during the height of COVID-19 pandemic. Dispensing the presentation of physical IDs will help ease government transactions.

This bill seeks to allow digital copy of IDs during government transactions except to those that have international application. This will require all government agencies that issue IDs to provide an electronic mark to the physical IDs in order for

verification of said ID be available during transaction, subject to the rules and regulations that the Executive shall issue once this bill is enacted into a law.

For this purpose, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Villar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARK A. VILLAR

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Government*
2 *Identification Digitization Act of 2023*”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 recognize the vital role of technology in pursuit of national development and
5 progress. The State hereby adopts a policy to create and sustain a digitally
6 integrated government that provides responsive and efficient digital transactions in
7 the government.

8 Sec. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – All Government Issued Identification Cards
9 subject of new and renewal application shall be covered by this Act, except IDs that
10 has an international application.

11 Sec. 4. *Digitization of Government IDs* – All Government issued IDs that are
12 subject of new registration or renewal application shall inscribe an electronic mark
13 that can be read by the concerned Government’s System when a digital copy of an
14 ID is presented which shall provide the required information provided by the
15 applicant during registration and/or application.

16 Sec. 5. *Effect of Digitization* – The physical copy of the Government ID that
17 bears an official electronic mark are no longer required to be presented in any

1 government transaction. It shall be sufficient that a digital copy of the said ID is
2 presented and the electronic mark therein is authenticated by the system used by
3 the concerned government Office for the said transaction to be authorized.

4 *Sec. 6. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
5 this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations of the year following its
6 enactment into law.

7 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Information
8 and Communication Technology (DICT) and all government Offices issuing
9 government IDs to the public shall issue the implementing rules and regulations
10 within sixty (60) calendar days from the effectivity hereof for the proper
11 implementation of this Act.

12 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be
13 declared or held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not
14 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

15 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
16 implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions
17 of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,