

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2568**



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**Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

On average, 3,000 Filipinos depart on airplanes every hour and they, in all probability, run the risk of becoming victims of flight off-loadings and tedious identify clearing just because they are the namesakes of persons who are subject of hold-departure orders. Such is the case of Roberto T. Borrromeo as narrated by Jarius Bondoc in his Gotcha column in the Philippine Star on April 17, 2015. Unfortunately, Borrromeo and his namesake offender had the same middle initial and, on account of the agency's lack of efficient system of clearing identity, he was offloaded from his flight. Eventually, Borrromeo proved he was not the offender after a whole day. In the process, he incurred incidental expenses in going to and from the main Immigration office and the Sandiganbayan. He was even charged P500 for the Clearance issued by the Bureau of Immigration.

To stave off the occurrence of similar incidents, it behooves the government to adopt a state-of-the-art method of documenting persons with hold-departure orders as well as clearing identities.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Castelo", written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

**PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO**

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**AN ACT**

**MANDATING THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION TO IMPLEMENT A STATE-OF-THE-ART METHOD OF DOCUMENTING PERSONS WITH HOLD-DEPARTURE ORDERS AND IDENTITY CLEARANCE SO AS TO AVOID GREAT INCONVENIENCE ON THE PART OF THE NAMESAKES OF SUCH PERSONS WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF SUCH HOLD-DEPARTURE ORDERS**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Persons with Hold-Departure Orders Efficient Documentation Act."

SEC. 2. The Bureau of Immigration (BOI) shall henceforth adopt a state-of-the-art method of documenting persons with hold-departure orders as well as identity clearance so as to avoid great inconvenience on the part of the namesakes of such persons who are the subject of such hold-departure orders.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*