

05 August 2019

**ATTY. RYAN ALVIN R. ACOSTA**

Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs  
Legislative Office  
Office of the President of the Philippines  
Malacañang Complex, J.P. Laurel Street  
San Miguel, Manila, 1005

Dear **Deputy Executive Secretary Acosta:**

We are pleased to provide you with the Department's comments and recommendations on enrolled House Bill No. 6710, entitled: "An Act Providing for Additional Prohibitions to and Increasing Penalties for Violations of Republic Act No. 8484, Otherwise Known as the 'Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998'."

The Department supports the objectives of the enrolled bill to curb illicit and fraudulent activities and intensify penal laws as a means to ensure and maintain the integrity of the country's financial system.

In line with the Department's thrust to empower consumers is the expansion of the prohibited acts listed under Section 9 of RA No. 8484 to include skimming, copying, and counterfeiting cards; producing or possessing software to perpetrate the enumerated illegal activities; fraudulent accessing of accounts; and hacking.

Finally, strengthening the penal provisions under Section 10 of RA No. 8484 to impede illegal and fraudulent behavior fosters public trust in the financial system and creates a conducive environment for financial innovation.

For your consideration.

Very truly yours,

**UNDERSECRETARY ROWEL S. BARBA**  
Officer-in-Charge

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY