

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



'22 JUL 12 A10 :35

SENATE
S. No. 334

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE E-GOVERNMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Executive Order No. 47, s. 2011 directed the then Information and Communications and Technology Office (ICTO) under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to: (1) ensure provision of efficient and effective information and communications technology infrastructure, information systems and resources to support efficient, effective, transparent and accountable governance and, in particular, support the speedy and efficient enforcement of rules and delivery of accessible public services to the people; and (2) build the capacities of public sector institutions and their personnel in the use of ICT to improve planning, management, delivery of mission, critical functions and monitoring and evaluation.¹ Pursuant to this, the first E-Government Master Plan (EGMP) was launched for years 2013 to 2016.²

To continue with the efforts of the government to harmonize and integrate information and communications technology (ICT) in the promotion of open governance as well as in the delivery of public service, another EGMP was released

¹ Executive Order No. 47, s. 2011. Retrieved from <https://dict.gov.ph/executive-order-no-47-s-2011/>

² Overview of the E-Government Master Plan (2013-2016). Retrieved from <https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wpcontent/uploads/MITHI/July2013/EGMP%20presentation%20for%20biennial%20.pdf>

for the years 2016 to 2022.³ In the same vein, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) also released an updated EGMP for 2022.⁴

In cognizance of the importance of the initiatives undertaken in the previous EGMPs and to guarantee effective implementation, this bill requires the updating of the EGMP every three (3) years and directs the Secretary of the DICT to spearhead the implementation of the EGMPs to be formulated. The bill also mandates the deployment of Chief Information Officers (CIO) to national and key government units and the appointment of an ICT Officer in each local government unit (LGU) to manage the implementation of the EGMP.

The call for the digital transformation of processes involved in delivering services through an interoperable government ICT network is definitely not new. However, it is more urgent now—in the time of COVID-19 pandemic and at the wake of the *new normal*—when physical interactions are still being minimized, when digital transactions continue to take over and to soar exponentially, and when having reliable access to government services within the confines of our homes is more crucial than ever.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.⁵



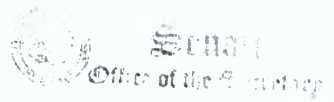
GRACE POE

³ E-Government Master Plan 2.0 (2016-2022) See https://www.gov.ph/documents/495812/518611/egmp-2.0-popular-version_final.pdf

⁴ E-Government Master Plan (2022). See <https://dict.gov.ph/ictstatistics/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/EGMP-2022.pdf>

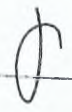
⁵ This bill was earlier filed in the House of Representatives by Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr.

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

- 1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "E-Government Act of
2 2022".
- 3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State hereby adopts the following policies:
- 4 1. The State shall provide effective leadership for the government to develop and
5 promote electronic government services and processes;
- 6 2. The State shall provide increased opportunities for citizen participation in
7 government;
- 8 3. The State shall promote inter-agency collaboration in providing electronic
9 government services;
- 10 4. The State shall promote the use of the internet and other emerging
11 technologies within and across government agencies to provide citizen-centric
12 government information and services;
- 13 5. The State shall ensure that costs and burdens are reduced for businesses and
14 other government entities;
- 15 6. The State shall promote better-informed decision making by policy makers;
- 16 7. The State shall strengthen and prepare for contingencies like natural disasters
17 or pandemics that may otherwise limit citizen mobility and access to services;

1 8. The State shall promote access to high quality government information and
2 services across multiple channels; and

3 9. The State shall make the government more transparent and accountable.

4 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined
5 as follows:

6 a. *Information and Communications Technology* or ICT shall mean the totality of
7 electronic means to access, create, collect, store, process, receive, transmit,
8 present and disseminate information;

9 b. *Electronic Government* or E-Government shall mean the use of ICT by the
10 government and the public to enhance the access to and delivery of
11 government services to bring about efficient, responsive, ethical, accountable
12 and transparent government service;

13 c. *ICT-Enabled Services* shall mean those engaged in providing services that
14 require the intrinsic use of ICTs including engineering or architectural design,
15 informatics service providers, offshoring and outsourcing service providers such
16 as call centers, back office processing, software development, medical or legal
17 transcription, animation, game development, and other services that require
18 the intrinsic use of a networked information infrastructure;

19 d. *Chief Information Officer* or CIO shall mean a senior officer in all national
20 government agencies (NGAs), including constitutional offices, state universities
21 and colleges (SUCs), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs),
22 and government financial institutions (GFIs) responsible for the development
23 and management of the agency's ICT systems and applications;

24 e. *Interoperability* shall mean the ability of different operating and software
25 systems, applications, and services to communicate and exchange data in an
26 accurate, effective, and consistent manner.

27 Sec. 4. *E-Government Master Plan.* – The Department of Information and
28 Communications Technology (DICT) shall establish and promote an E-Government
29 Master Plan to encourage excellence in facilitating the development and enhancement
30 of all electronic Government services and processes. The E-Government Master Plan
31 shall be reviewed and revised every three years.

1 Sec. 5. *E-Government Programs*. – The E-Government Master Plan shall include,
2 but not limited to, the following programs:

3 1. *Philippine Government Interoperability Framework*. – A framework shall be
4 developed to guide and govern basic technical and informational
5 interoperability of government ICT systems. Such a framework will guide all
6 shared operations and services of the Philippine government between and
7 among its various agencies, as well as for these agencies in dealing with their
8 various constituencies;

9 2. *Archives and Records Management Information System*. – A system shall be
10 designed to systematically and efficiently manage government documents and
11 records. This includes the digitization of paper-based documents and records
12 and the development of systems that will manage these documents—from
13 creation, routing, tracking, and archiving to disposal—while adhering to existing
14 policies, laws and standards of the International Organization for
15 Standardization;

16 3. *Government Online Payment System*. – An internet-based electronic payment
17 facility and gateway that will enable citizens and businesses to remit payments
18 electronically to government agencies shall be created. It shall render services
19 through various delivery channels, which include debit instructions (ATM
20 accounts), credit instructions (credit cards) and mobile wallets (SMS);

21 4. *Citizen Frontline Delivery Services*. – Services that are needed to facilitate
22 business registration-related transactions shall be made efficient by integrating
23 all agencies involved in business registration, such as the Department of Trade
24 and Industry (DTI), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperative
25 Development Authority (CDA), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Social
26 Security System (SSS), Home Development Mutual Fund (PagIBIG), Philippine
27 Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Local Government Units (LGUs) and
28 other permit/license-issuing agencies;

29 5. *Public Financial Management*. – Various financial systems in government such
30 as taxation, payment systems, accounting, and business registries shall be
31 harmonized and managed; and

1 6. *Procurement System* – An online and real-time service that encompasses all
2 procurement processes involving bidding, contract agreements, and payment
3 for services or supplies shall also be developed.

4 The E-Government Master Plan shall likewise include the following:

- 5 1. Inventory and purchase of hardware and software of all government offices;
- 6 2. Utilization of servers, network connections and data centers in all government
7 offices;
- 8 3. Security, disaster recovery plans and archiving considering existing services and
9 capabilities already available as well as future information systems; and
- 10 4. Standardization of systems across government agencies to promote
11 interoperability and database management.

12 *Sec. 6. DICT Secretary as E-Government Head.* – The Secretary of the DICT shall
13 head the E-Government initiative. The Secretary is expected to spearhead all aspects
14 of accomplishing the implementation of the E-Government Master Plan to catalyze the
15 optimum use of ICT in government to expand and improve public services,
16 government operations and capabilities.

17 *Sec. 7. Chief Information Officers.* – Chief Information Officers will be assigned
18 and deployed to national and key governmental units with the function of:

- 19 1. Advising agencies on how best to leverage ICTs to optimize the delivery of
20 public services, and achieve efficient and cost-effective operations;
- 21 2. Developing, maintaining and managing the agency's information systems;
- 22 3. Managing and supervising the implementation of ICT-based projects, systems
23 and processes;
- 24 4. Formulating and implementing processes in relation to the adoption of ICT-
25 based solutions as provided by the E-Government plan;
- 26 5. Managing operational risks related to ICT in coordination with the agency's
27 management and stakeholders; and
- 28 6. Ensuring that the ICT programs and operations are consistent with national
29 policies and standards.

30 *Sec. 8. LGU ICT Officers.* – Each Local Government Unit shall have an Information
31 Officer assigned to manage and supervise its adoption of the E-Government Plan. The

1 LGU ICT Officer is likewise tasked to spearhead seminars and other means of
2 educating the community to maximize E-Government initiatives.

3 Sec. 9. *E-Government Status Report.* – Each agency and local government unit
4 shall compile and submit an annual E-Government Status Report on:

- 5 a. status of the implementation of electronic government initiatives;
- 6 b. compliance by the agency with this Act; and
- 7 c. performance in delivering programs through the E-Government to
8 constituencies.

9 Sec. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the initial implementation of this
10 Act shall be taken from the current year's appropriations of the DICT. Thereafter, such
11 sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the
12 annual General Appropriations Act.

13 Sec. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the
14 effectivity of this Act, the DICT shall, in coordination with relevant agencies and upon
15 consultation with stakeholders, formulate the rules and regulations to effectively
16 implement the provisions of this Act.

17 Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall
19 remain in force and effect.

20 Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
21 order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this
22 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23 Sec. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
24 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
25 circulation.

Approved,