



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

'22 JUL 14 P3:35

SENATE
S. B. No. 627

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CAPACITY OF ALL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF
1991, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The ability of information and communications technology (ICT) to accelerate information dissemination, improve efficiency of public services, increase the transparency and accountability of government administration, to reduce corruption, and facilitate citizen participation in local governance have been subject of various published literature.¹ With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen several of our local government units (LGUs) increasingly embrace digital technologies. Further, to better engage the citizenry, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has urged all LGUs to bolster digital economy and move towards digitized government transactions to reduce contact, prevent further contagion, and boost economic activity as the country continues to battle the pandemic.

In order for our LGUs to better address the fundamental challenges associated with the new normal, ICT development and digitalization, this bill proposes the appointment of an Information and Communications Technology Officer (ICTO). The ICTO shall act as the over-all officer in charge for all ICT concerns of the municipality, city or province, including but not limited to:

¹ <https://www.adb.org/publications/public-service-delivery-role-information-and-communication-technology-improving-governance>

- a. the development, adoption, deployment, improvement and maintenance of ICT technologies, platforms, systems and solutions utilized by the said LGU;
- b. formulating measures that would ensure the digitization of public documents and digitalization of government processes;
- c. guide the LGU concerned in its digital transformation efforts, expedite change and minimize complications.

As the service delivery units of the national government, our LGUs need to be supported by sustainable mechanisms to ensure continuous and sustainable use of ICTs in their level. This can only be achieved with a specific officer mandated to focus on empowering and assisting all local departments within the LGU in utilizing and harnessing ICTs. Without sustainability and comprehensive planning and support, the national goal of ensuring digital transformation across the country will be difficult to achieve. Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.




SONNY ANGARA
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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 "*Local Information*
- 2 *and Communications Technology Officer Act.*"
- 3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to
- 4 develop, harness, and integrate information and communication technology across all
- 5 levels of government in the country to ensure transparent, accountable, efficient and
- 6 participatory governance. Pursuant to this policy, the State shall provide for a local
- 7 government position that will be responsible and accountable for the implementation
- 8 of digital transformation in the local government units.
- 9 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:
- 10 a) *Digitization* – refers to the technical conversion of physical, analog originals to
- 11 digital copies by means of electronic devices;
- 12 b) *Digitalization* – refers to the adoption of digital technologies to upgrade
- 13 business processes and models in order to create better ways of providing
- 14 service and obtaining greater benefits;
- 15 c) *Digital Transformation* – refers to cultural, organizational and operational
- 16 change of an organization, industry or ecosystem through a smart integration

1 of digital technologies, processes and competencies across all levels and
2 functions in a staged and strategic way;

3 d) *Digital skills* – refer to a range of skills, encompassing a combination of
4 behaviors, expertise, know-how, work habits, character traits, dispositions, and
5 critical understanding on the use of digital devices, communication applications,
6 and networks to access and manage information;

7 e) *Digital services* – refer to public or private services that can be delivered
8 through digital communication, such as Internet, mobile phone network that
9 might include delivery of digital information, data or content or transactional
10 services;

11 f) *Digital technology*– refers to any product or service that can be used to create,
12 view, distribute, modify, store, retrieve, transmit, and receive information
13 electronically in a digital form such as personal computers and devices like
14 desktop, laptop, netbook, tablet computer, smart phones, games consoles,
15 media players, e-book readers, as well as digital television, robots, personal
16 assistant smart devices, and smart boards;

17 g) *Digital tools* – refer to technologies used for a given purpose or for carrying out
18 a particular function of information processing, communication, content
19 creation, safety or problem solving.

20 h) *E-readiness (electronic readiness)* – refers to a measure of the degree to which
21 a country is prepared to partake in electronic activities and, thus, benefit from
22 ICT in education.

23 i) *Innovation* – refers to the creation of new ideas using new or existing
24 technologies that results in the development of new or improved products,
25 processes, or services, which are then spread or transferred across the market

26 **SEC. 4.** Section 443 (a) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
27 Government Code of 1991, hereinafter referred to as the "Code", is hereby amended
28 to read as follows:

29 "Sec. 443. *Officials of the Municipal Government.* –

30 "(a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal
31 vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the
32 sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a

1 municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning
2 and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a
3 municipal health officer and a municipal civil registrar [7]. **A**
4 **MUNICIPAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**
5 **TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (ICTO) SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED:**
6 ***PROVIDED*, THAT THE MUNICIPALITY HAS THE OPTION TO**
7 **APPOINT AN ICTO OR MERGE SUCH POSITION TO AN**
8 **EXISTING POSITION OR OFFICIAL IN A RELATED OFFICE,**
9 **UNIT OR DEPARTMENT IN THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT:**
10 ***PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT IF THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL**
11 **APPOINT AN ICTO, THE MUNICIPALITY HAS THE OPTION TO**
12 **SET THE RANK, REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS**
13 **OF THE MUNICIPAL ICTO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS,**
14 **RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

15 "(b) xxx

16 "(c) xxx

17 "(d) xxx

18 "(e) xxx."

19 **SEC. 5.** Section 454 (a) of the Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 "Sec. 454. *Officials of the City Government.*

21 "(a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, sangguniang
22 panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a
23 city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer,
24 a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city
25 health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal
26 officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development
27 officer, and a city general services officer [7]. **A CITY ICTO SHALL**
28 **ALSO BE APPOINTED: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE CITY HAS THE**
29 **OPTION TO APPOINT AN ICTO OR MERGE SUCH POSITION TO**
30 **AN EXISTING POSITION OR OFFICIAL IN A RELATED OFFICE,**
31 **UNIT OR DEPARTMENT IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT:**
32 ***PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT IF THE CITY SHALL APPOINT AN**

1 **ICTO, THE CITY HAS THE OPTION TO SET THE RANK,**
2 **REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF THE CITY**
3 **ICTO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND**
4 **REGULATIONS.**

5 “(b) xxx

6 “(c) xxx

7 “(d) xxx

8 “(e) xxx.”

9 **SEC. 6.** Section 463 (a) of the Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 “Sec. 463. *Officials of the Provincial Government.*

11 “(a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor,
12 members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the
13 sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial
14 assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial
15 budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a
16 provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health
17 officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial
18 general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, and a provincial
19 veterinarian, [7].

20 **A PROVINCIAL ICTO SHALL ALSO BE**
21 **APPOINTED: PROVIDED, THAT THE PROVINCE HAS THE**
22 **OPTION TO APPOINT AN ICTO OR MERGE SUCH POSITION TO**
23 **AN EXISTING POSITION OR OFFICIAL IN A RELATED OFFICE,**
24 **UNIT OR DEPARTMENT IN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT:**
25 **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IF THE PROVINCE SHALL**
26 **APPOINT AN ICTO, THE PROVINCE HAS THE OPTION TO SET**
27 **THE RANK, REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF**
28 **THE PROVINCIAL ICTO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES**
29 **AND REGULATIONS.**

29 “(b) xxx

30 “(c) xxx

31 “(d) xxx

32 “(e) xxx.”

1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL
2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE, IN CARRYING OUT MEASURES TO
3 ENSURE THE DIGITIZATION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS,
4 DIGITALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT PROCESS AND OVER-
5 ALL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF GOVERNMENT

6 (2) DEVELOP PLANS AND STRATEGIES AND UPON
7 APPROVAL THEREOF BY THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE
8 IMPLEMENT THE SAME, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH
9 HAVE TO DO WITH DEVELOPING, HARNESSING,
10 INTEGRATING AND UTILIZING INFORMATION AND
11 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DIGITAL
12 TRANSFORMATION OF GOVERNMENT AND RELEVANT
13 PURPOSES;

14 (3) IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING DUTIES AND
15 FUNCTIONS, THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
16 TECHNOLOGY OFFICER SHALL:

17 (i) TAKE CUSTODY OF AND BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR
18 ALL PROPERTIES, REAL OR PERSONAL, OWNED BY THE
19 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT AND THOSE GRANTED TO IT
20 IN THE FORM OF DONATION, REPARATION, ASSISTANCE
21 AND COUNTERPART OF JOINT PROJECTS;

22 (ii) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL CHIEF
23 EXECUTIVE, ASSIGN RESOURCES TO LOCAL OFFICIALS
24 OR OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS, WHO BY LAW, ARE
25 ENTITLED TO SUCH SPACES;

26 (iii) RECOMMEND TO THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
27 THE REASONABLE PURCHASE, LEASE OR RENTAL RATES
28 OF DIGITAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
29 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION;

30 (iv) DEVELOP, MAINTAIN AND SUPERVISE ALL
31 OTHER INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

1 TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE LOCAL
2 GOVERNMENT;

3 (v) COLLATE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION
4 REGARDING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
5 TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE LOCAL
6 GOVERNMENT TO THE PUBLIC,

7 (vi) PERFORM DATABASE AND RECORD
8 MANAGEMENT WITH RESPECT TO RECORDS OF OFFICES
9 AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT;
10 AND

11 (vii) PERFORM ALL OTHER FUNCTIONS PERTAINING
12 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
13 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
14 AND ENFORCE POLICIES IN RELATION THERETO;

15 (4) BE IN THE FRONTLINE OF INFORMATION AND
16 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS AND
17 SERVICES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN PARTNERSHIP
18 WITH PRIVATE SECTOR;

19 (5) DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND EVALUATE ALL
20 PROGRAMS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT ALL PERSONNEL
21 UNDER HIS OR HER SUPERVISION INCLUDING HIMSELF
22 OR HERSELF ARE CONSTANTLY TRAINED OR EXPOSED TO
23 KNOWLEDGE IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
24 TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER RELEVANT AREAS;

25 (6) RECOMMEND TO THE SANGGUNIAN AND
26 ADVISE THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ON ALL OTHER
27 MATTERS RELATIVE TO INFORMATION AND
28 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY; AND

29 (C) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM
30 SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE
31 PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR ORDINANCE."

1 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** — If any part or provision of this Act shall be
2 declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are
3 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
5 rules and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the
6 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,