

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4262



Introduced by HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Art. II, Sec. 24 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that “The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building.”

One of the priority bills of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in his 2022 State of the Nation Address (SONA) is the E- Government Act.

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

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City’s Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "GUS S. TAMBUNTING".

REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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

Section 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "E-Government Act of 2022".

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State hereby adopts the following policies:

1. The State shall provide effective leadership for the government to develop and promote electronic government services and processes;
2. The State shall provide increased opportunities for citizen participation in government;
3. The State shall promote inter-agency collaboration in providing electronic government services;
4. The State shall promote the use of the internet and other emerging technologies within and across government agencies to provide citizen-centric
5. government information and services;
6. The State shall ensure that costs and burdens are reduced for businesses and other government entities;
7. The State shall promote better-informed decision-making by policymakers;
8. The State shall strengthen and prepare for contingencies like natural disasters

- i. or pandemics that may otherwise limit citizen mobility and access to services;
- 9. The State shall promote access to high-quality government information and
 - i. services across multiple channels; and
- 10. The State shall make the government more transparent and accountable.

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

- a. Information and Communications Technology ICT shall mean the totality of
 - b. electronic means to access, create, collect, store, process, receive, transmit, present, and disseminate information;
 - c. Electronic Government or E-Government shall mean the use of ICT by the governments and the public to enhance the access to and delivery of government services to bring about efficient, responsive, ethical, accountable and transparent government service;
 - d. ICT-Enabled Services shall mean those engaged in providing services that
 - i. require the intrinsic use of ICTs including engineering or architectural design,
 - ii. informatics service providers, offshoring and outsourcing service providers such
 - iii. as call centers, back-office processing, software development, medical or legal transcription, animation, game development, and other services that require the intrinsic use of networked information infrastructure;
 - e. Chief Information Officer or CIO shall mean a senior officer in all national government agencies (NGAs), including constitutional offices, state universities
- b) and colleges (SUCs), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), and government financial institutions (GFIs) responsible for the development
- i. and management of the agency's ICT systems and applications;
 - ii. Interoperability shall mean the ability of different operating and software systems, applications, and services to communicate

and exchange data in an accurate, effective, and consistent manner.

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

Sec. 5. E-Government Programs. — The E-Government Master Plan shall include, but is not limited to, the following programs:

1. Philippine Government Interoperability Framework. — A framework shall be developed to guide and govern basic technical and informational interoperability of government ICT systems. Such a framework will guide all shared operations and services of the Philippine government between and among its various agencies, as well as for these agencies in dealing with their various constituencies;
2. Archives and Records Management Information System. — A system shall be designed to systematically and efficiently manage government documents and
 - i. records. This includes the digitization of paper-based documents and records
 - ii. and the development of systems that will manage these documents—from
 - iii. creation, routing, tracking, and archiving to disposal—while adhering to existing policies, laws, and standards of the International Organization for Standardization;
3. Government Online Payment System. — An internet-based electronic payment facility and gateway that will enable citizens and businesses to remit payments electronically to government agencies shall be created. It shall render services through various delivery channels, which include debit instructions (ATM accounts), credit instructions (credit cards), and mobile wallets (SMS);
4. Citizen Frontline Delivery Services. — Services that are needed to facilitate
5. business registration-related transactions shall be made efficient by integrating

6. all agencies involved in business registration, such as the Department of Trade
7. and Industry (DTI), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperative
 - i. Development Authority (CDA), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Social
 - ii. Security System (SSS), Home Development Mutual Fund (PagIBIG), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Local Government Units (LGUs) and
 - iii. other permit/license-issuing agencies;
 - iv. Public Financial/ Management. — Various financial systems in government such as taxation, payment systems, accounting, and business registries shall be harmonized and managed; and
8. Procurement System — An online and real-time service that encompasses all procurement processes involving bidding, contract agreements, and payment for services or supplies shall also be developed.

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

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

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

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

1. Advising agencies on how best to leverage ICTs to optimize the delivery of

- public services, and achieve efficient and cost-effective operations;
2. Developing, maintaining, and managing the agency's information systems;
 3. Managing and supervising the implementation of ICT-based projects, systems, and processes;
 4. Formulating and implementing processes for the adoption of ICT-based solutions as provided by the E-Government plan;
 5. Managing operational risks related to ICT in coordination with the agency's management and stakeholders; and
 6. Ensuring that the ICT programs and operations are consistent with national policies and standards.

Sec. 8. LGU ICY Officers. — Each Local Government Unit shall have an Information Officer assigned to manage and supervise its adoption of the E-Government Plan. The LGU ICT Officer is likewise tasked to spearhead seminars and other means of educating the community to maximize E-Government initiatives.

Sec. 9. E-Government Status Report. — Each agency and local government unit shall compile and submit an annual E-Government Status Report on

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

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

Sec. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within 60 days after the effectivity of this Act, the DICT shall in coordination with relevant agencies and upon consultations with stakeholders, formulate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

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

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

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

Approved,