COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 354

Submitted by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on JUN 02 2020.

Re: House Bill No. 6927

Recommend its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1248

Sponsors: Representatives Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte and Victor A. Yap

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Information and Communications Technology to which was referred House Bill No. 1248 introduced by Representative Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, entitled:

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

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 6927, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE E-GOVERNMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”


Respectfully submitted:

VICTOR A. YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Information and Communications Technology

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6927
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 1248)


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

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “E-Government Act”.

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

1) The State shall provide effective leadership for the development and promotion of 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 emerging technologies within and across government agencies to provide citizen-centric government information and services;

5) The State shall ensure that costs and burdens are reduced for businesses and other government entities;
6) The State shall promote better-informed decision-making by policy makers;

7) The State shall promote access to high quality government information and services across multiple channels; and

8) The State shall make the government more transparent and accountable.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

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

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

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

d) Chief Information Officer or CIO shall mean a senior officer in all national government agencies, including constitutional offices, state universities and colleges, government-owned and controlled corporations, and government financial institutions responsible for the development and management of the agency's ICT systems and applications;

e) 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 E-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
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 framework shall 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
records. This includes the digitization of paper-based documents and records and
the development of systems that will manage these documents, — from creation,
routing, tracking, and archiving to disposal, — while adhering to existing
policies, laws and the 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 accounts
(debit cards), credit instructions (credit cards) and mobile wallets (SMS).
4) Citizen Frontline Delivery Services. — Services that are needed to facilitate
business registration-related transactions shall be made efficient by integrating
all agencies involved in business registration, such as the Department of Trade
and Industry, Securities and Exchange Commission, Cooperative Development
Authority, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Social Security System, Home
Development Mutual Fund, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Local
Government Units (LGUs) and other permit/license-issuing agencies.
5) Public Financial Management. — Various financial systems in government such
as taxation, payment systems, accounting, business registries; shall be
harmonized and managed.
6) *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, 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 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 shall be assigned and deployed to national and key governmental units and perform the following functions:

1) Advise agencies on how best to leverage ICTs to optimize the delivery of public services, and achieve efficient and cost effective operations;
2) Develop, maintain and manage the agency’s information systems;
3) Manage and supervise the implementation of ICT-based projects, systems and processes;
4) Formulate and implement processes in relation to the adoption of ICT-based solutions as provided by the E-Government plan;
5) Manage operational risks related to ICT in coordination with the agency’s management and stakeholders; and
6) Ensure that the ICT programs and operations are consistent with national policies and standards.

SEC. 8. *Local Government Unit (LGU) ICT Officers.* - Each LGU shall have an ICT 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 LGU shall compile and submit an annual E-Government Status Report on: (a) the 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. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The DICT shall, in coordination with relevant agencies and upon consultation with stakeholders, issue within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.
FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 6927
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 1248)

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE E-GOVERNMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES


Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION and COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chairperson: REP. VICTOR A. YAP

OBJECTIVE:

- To establish an effective E-Government plan that would create more valuable and meaningful services through interoperability and maximization of resources.
- To strengthen the use of information and communications technology (ICT) within and across government agencies and minimize the human intervention component in government transactions, thus, curtailing corruption.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates the establishment and promotion of an E-Government Master Plan, through the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to encourage excellence in facilitating the development and enhancement of all electronic government services and processes.
- Mandates the inclusion of the following programs in the E-Government Master Plan:
  1. Philippine Government Interoperability Framework;
  2. Archives and Records Management Information System;
  3. Government Online Payment System;
  4. Citizen Frontline Delivery Services;
  5. Public Financial Management;
6. Procurement System;
7. Inventory and purchase of hardware and software of all government offices;
8. Utilization of servers, network connections and data centers in all government offices;
9. Security, disaster recovery plans and archiving considering existing services and capabilities already available as well as future information systems; and
10. Standardization of systems across government agencies to promote interoperability and database management.

- Directs the DICT Secretary to head the E-Government initiatives and 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.

- Mandates the assignment and deployment of Chief Information Officers to national and key governmental units who shall:
  1. Direct agencies on how best to leverage ICTs to optimize the delivery of public services, and achieve efficient and cost effective operations;
  2. Develop, maintain and manage the agency’s information systems;
  3. Manage and supervise the implementation of ICT-based projects, systems and processes;
  4. Formulate and implement the processes in relation to the adoption of ICT-based solutions as provided by the E-Government plan;
  5. Manage the operational risks related to ICT in coordination with the agency’s management and stakeholders; and
  6. Assure that the ICT programs and operations are consistent with national policies and standards.

- Authorizes the appointment of an Information Officer for each Local Government Unit (LGU-I0) who shall be assigned to manage and supervise the adoption of the E-Government Plan in the LGU.

- Mandates the local government units to compile and submit an annual E-Government Status Report on:
  (a) The status of the implementation of electronic government initiatives;
  (b) Compliance by the agency with the Act; and
  (c) Performance in delivery of programs through the E-Government to constituencies by the agencies.