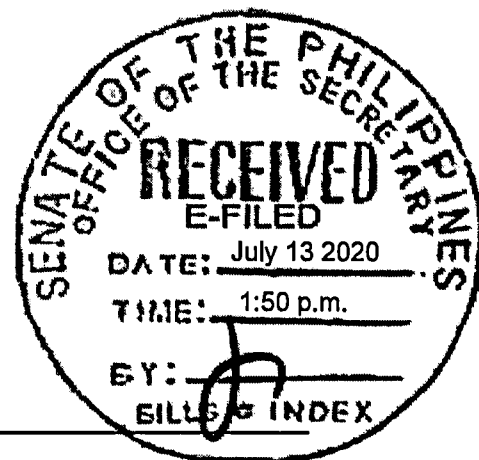


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

SENATE  
S. No. **1683**



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.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to this, the first E-Government Master Plan (EGMP) was launched for years 2013 to 2016.<sup>2</sup>

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 for

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

<sup>2</sup>Overview of the E-Government Master Plan (2013-2016). Retrieved from <https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/MITHI/July2013/EGMP%20presentation%20for%20plenary%202.pdf>

the years 2016 to 2022.<sup>3</sup> In the same vein, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) also released an updated EGMP for 2022.<sup>4</sup>

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 – when mobility is hampered, physical interactions are minimized, and having access to government services in the safety of our homes is more crucial than ever.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.<sup>5</sup>

  
GRACE POE

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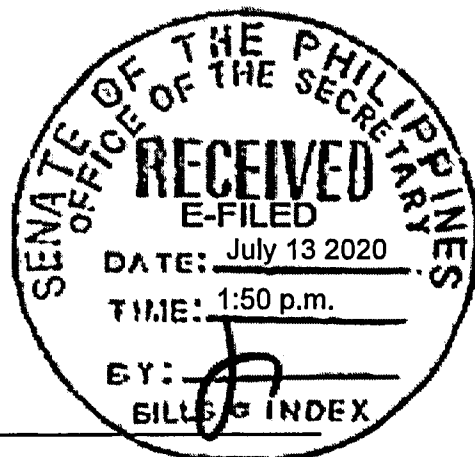
<sup>3</sup>E-Government Master Plan 2.0 (2016-2022) See [https://www.gov.ph/documents/495812/518611/egmp-2.0-popular-version\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.ph/documents/495812/518611/egmp-2.0-popular-version_final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>E-Government Master Plan (2022). See [https://dict.gov.ph/ictstatistics/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/4-EGMP\\_DGI\\_Iloilo.pdf](https://dict.gov.ph/ictstatistics/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/4-EGMP_DGI_Iloilo.pdf)

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

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

*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       2020”.

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 emerging technologies  
11      within and across government agencies to provide citizen-centric government  
12      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 promote access to high quality government information and  
17      services across multiple channels; and
- 18      8. The State shall make the government more transparent and accountable.

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

- 3        a. *Information and Communications Technology* or ICT shall mean the totality of  
4        electronic means to access, create, collect, store, process, receive, transmit,  
5        present and disseminate information;
- 6        b. *Electronic Government* or E-Government shall mean the use of ICT by the  
7        government and the public to enhance the access to and delivery of  
8        government services to bring about efficient, responsive, ethical, accountable  
9        and transparent government service;
- 10       c. *ICT-Enabled Services* shall mean those engaged in providing services that  
11       require the intrinsic use of ICTs including engineering or architectural design,  
12       informatics service providers, offshoring and outsourcing service providers such  
13       as call centers, back office processing, software development, medical or legal  
14       transcription, animation, game development, and other services that require  
15       the intrinsic use of a networked information infrastructure;
- 16       d. *Chief Information Officer* or CIO shall mean a senior officer in all national  
17       government agencies (NGAs), including constitutional offices, state universities  
18       and colleges (SUCs), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs),  
19       and government financial institutions (GFIs) responsible for the development  
20       and management of the agency's ICT systems and applications;
- 21       e. *Interoperability* shall mean the ability of different operating and software  
22       systems, applications, and services to communicate and exchange data in an  
23       accurate, effective, and consistent manner.

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

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

- 31       1. **Philippine Government Interoperability Framework.** - A Philippine government  
32       interoperability framework shall be developed to guide and govern basic

1 technical and informational interoperability of government ICT systems. Such  
2 a framework will guide all shared operations and services of the Philippine  
3 government-between and among its various agencies, as well as for these  
4 agencies in dealing with their various constituencies;

5 2. Archives and Records Management Information System. – An archives and  
6 records management information system shall be designed to systematically  
7 and efficiently manage government documents and records. This includes the  
8 digitization of paper based documents and records and the development of  
9 systems that will manage these documents from creation, routing, tracking,  
10 and archiving to disposal — while adhering to existing policies, laws and ISO  
11 standards;

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

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

25 5. Public Financial Management. – Various financial systems in government (e.g.  
26 taxation, payment systems, accounting, business registries) shall be  
27 harmonized and managed.

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

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

32 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 in relation to the adoption of CT-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 ICT 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) the status of the implementation of electronic government initiatives; (B) compliance by the agency

1 with this Act; and (C) performance in delivering programs through the E-Government  
2 to constituencies.

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

7       Sec. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days after  
8 the effectivity of this Act, the DICT shall formulate the rules and regulations to  
9 effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

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

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

16       Sec. 14. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
17 complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,