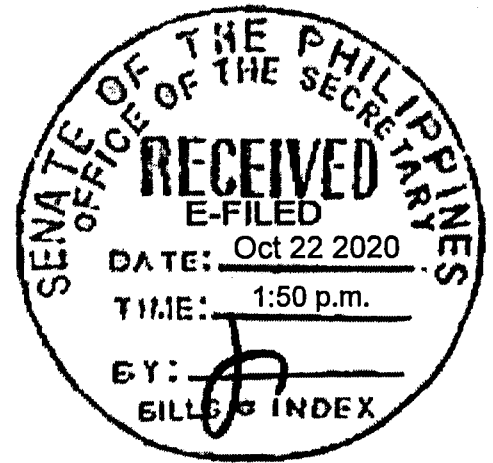EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE   )
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES   )
Second Regular Session   )

S E N A T E

S. No. 1891

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the transition of our government onto the digital realm. Because people's movements are restricted, they find remote ways to transact with government offices. Because social distancing is widely implemented, physical appearance before government windows are highly discouraged and setting prior appointments are advised. Because long queues for payment of taxes and fees pose health risks, online banking and digital payments became safer options.

The Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 already recognized the potential of maximizing information and communications technology (ICT) to promote efficient, clean and people-centered governance. It calls for the passage of the E-Government Act to "enable interoperability of government data and processes to increase efficiency and economy in the delivery of services."

This measure seeks to give life to the proposed E-Government Act and to institutionalize the shift to automated systems brought about by the pandemic. It espouses an E-Government Master Plan with the following programs: Philippine Government Interoperability Framework; Database and Other Resources Sharing Network; Archives and Records Management Information System; Full Disclosure and
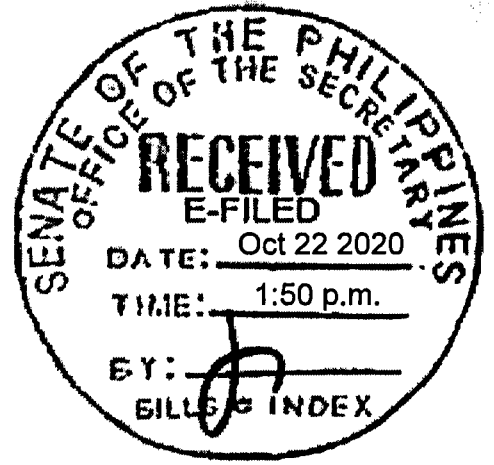
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Transparency System; Online Payment System; Citizen Frontline Delivery Services; Public Financial Management; Procurement System; and Cybersecurity Protection and Data Privacy Measures.

With streamlined processes and improved inter-agency cooperation, the E-Government Bill is expected to reduce costs and burdens not only for the transacting public, but also for the government. Moreover, it reduces possibility of red tape and eliminates opportunity for graft and corrupt practices; thereby promotes good governance.

In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is sought.

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

S E N A T E

S. No. **1891**

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

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

1   Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*E-Government Act*".

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

3   1. The State shall provide effective leadership for the development and
4   promotion of electronic government services and processes;

5   2. The State shall provide increased opportunities for citizen participation in
6   government and people empowerment through use of available electronic
7   technologies and increased access to high quality government information
8   across multiple channels;

9   3. The State shall promote inter-agency collaboration and harmonized
10   systems in providing automated government services;

11   4. The State shall promote the use of the internet, as well as available and
12   emerging technologies within and across government agencies to provide
13   efficient and effective citizen-centric government information and services;

14   5. The State shall ensure that costs and burdens in availing government
15   services are reduced for the general public, businesses and other entities;

16   6. The State shall make the government more transparent and accountable;

7. The State shall recognize its inherent obligation to ensure that personal information in information and communications systems in the government are secured and protected;

8. The State shall strengthen and update existing electronic systems, online or remote transaction mechanisms and other contactless means of service in recognition of the health protocols, mobility restrictions and safety guidelines posed by the epidemics and similar health emergencies, and natural or man-made calamities.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

1. *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;

2. *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;

3. *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;

4. *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;

5. *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.

1   Sec. 4. *E-Government Master Plan.* – The Department of Information and
2   Communications Technology (DICT) shall establish and promote an E-Government
3   Master Plan to encourage excellence in facilitating the development and enhancement
4   of all E-Government services and processes. The E-Government Master Plan shall be
5   reviewed and revised every three (3) years.

6   Sec. 5. *E-Government Programs.* – The E-Government Master Plan shall include
7   the following programs:

8   1. *Philippine Government Interoperability Framework.* – A framework shall be
9   developed to guide and govern basic technical and informational
10   interoperability of government ICT systems. Such framework shall guide all
11   shared operations and services of the Philippine government between and
12   among its various agencies, in dealing with their various constituencies.

13   2. *Database and Other Resources Sharing Network.* – A network shall be
14   designed to allow agencies to access shared database and other resources
15   in order to facilitate seamless validation, inquiry and research procedures,
16   inter-agency cooperation and support, and regular exchange of datasets,
17   studies and statistics towards effective policy making, monitoring and
18   evaluation.

19   3. *Archives and Records Management System.* – A system shall be designed
20   to systematically and efficiently manage government documents and
21   records. This includes the digitization of paper-based documents and
22   records and the development of systems that will manage these documents
23   – from creation, routing, tracking, and archiving to disposal – while adhering
24   to existing policies, laws and the standards of the International Organization
25   for Standardization.

26   4. *Full Disclosure and Transparency System.* – An open data system which
27   allows the general public access to government information and other public
28   interest documents, projects and transactions, and allows citizens to engage
29   public officials in shaping public policies.

30   5. *Government Online Payment System.* – An internet-based electronic
31   payment facility and gateway that will enable citizens and businesses to
32   remit payments electronically to government agencies shall be created. It

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shall render services through various delivery channels, which include debit instructions accounts (debit cards), credit instructions (credit cards) and mobile wallets (SMS).

6. *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.

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

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.

9. *Cybersecurity Protection and Data Privacy Measures.* – This refers to policies and safeguards that will ensure the protection of data and personal information against cyber security threats, breach of privacy, and illegal use of information.

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;

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

1   aspects of implementation of the E-Government Master Plan to catalyze the optimum
2   use of ICT in government to expand and improve public services, government
3   operations and capabilities.

4   Sec. 7. *Chief Information Officers.* – Chief Information Officers shall be
5   assigned and deployed to national and key governmental units and perform the
6   following functions:

7   1. Advise agencies on how best to leverage ICTs to optimize the delivery of
8   public services, and achieve efficient and cost-effective operations;

9   2. Develop, maintain and manage the agency's information systems;

10 3. Manage and supervise the implementation of ICT-based projects, systems,
11   and processes;

12 4. Formulate and implement processes in relation to the adoption of ICT-based
13   solutions as provided by the E-Government plan;

14 5. Manage operational risks to ICT in coordination with the agency's
15   management and stakeholders; and

16 6. Ensure that the ICT programs and operations are consistent with national
17   policies and standards.

18 Sec. 8. *Local Government Unit (LGU) ICT Officers.* – Each LGU shall have an
19 ICT Officer assigned to manage and supervise its adoption of the E-Government Plan.
20 The LGU ICT Officer is likewise tasked to spearhead seminars and other means of
21 educating the community to maximize the E-Government initiatives.

22 Sec. 9. *E-Government Status Report.* – Each agency and LGU shall compile and
23 submit an annual E-Government Status Report on:

24 1. The status of the implementation of electronic government initiatives;

25 2. Compliance by the agency with this Act; and

26 3. Performance in delivering programs through the E-Government to
27   constituencies.

28 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
29 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
30 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

31 Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
32 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or

1   inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended

2   accordingly.

3   Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its

4   publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

        Approved.