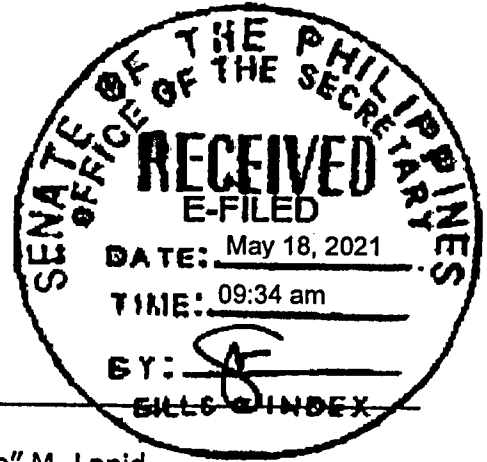


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. 2207



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TRANSCENDENT UNIFIED GOVERNMENT MOBILE
APPLICATION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES, SETTING A FRAMEWORK
AND COMMON STANDARDS FOR GOVERNMENT MOBILE APPLICATIONS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

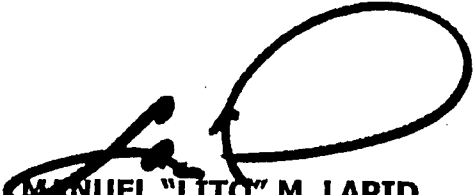
The State seeks to provide at all times efficient, speedy and inexpensive local and national government services to all and ensure the accessibility and reliability of government information and resources. It is thus the policy of the State to exert utmost effort in democratizing information, streamlining transactions, and ensuring that all major and frontline government services are available to the Filipino people through various media including the internet and with software applications which can be navigated by a general application in coordination with all government agencies and instrumentalities.

There are two undeniable facts – one, gadgets, specifically smart phones, are indispensable in our daily lives and two, given all the technological innovations, we want instant gratification - we always want instant and readily-available information. Our world certainly demands digital transformation which will provide efficiency gains by capitalizing on existing and emerging technology. According to a report, the number of smartphone users in the Philippines in 2019 is around 74 million and it is forecasted to be around 90 million by 2025. In the third quarter of 2020, 98.6% of the adult population used smartphones as a digital device. Further, there were 73.91 million internet users in the Philippines in January 2021. Given these, what the government needs to do is to establish a mobile application which will benefit us all in

accessing government services. This is an efficient method of sharing data and information quickly.

Thus, this bill seeks to create Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application (TUGMA) which shall be an online comprehensive portal of each government agency and instrumentality designed to facilitate the acquisition of government information, services or some other benefit. It shall provide users with basic things and other helpful information about the country's major frontline government services and their associated agencies. It shall also be used to redirect users to specific government applications, websites, or other platforms to streamline transactions, process requests, provide information, and extend any other beneficial use made possible through the implementation of modern technologies and systems.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.

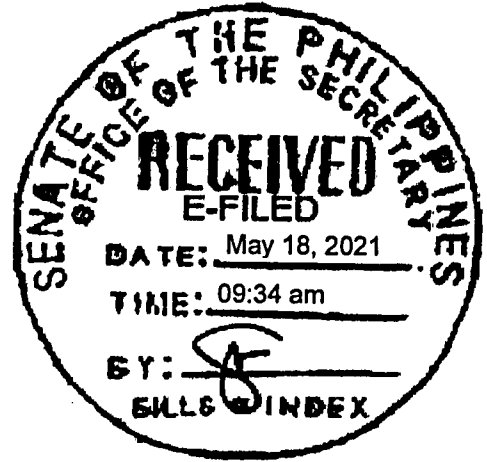


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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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 "*Government Mobile*
2 *Applications Act.*"

3
4 **Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State seeks to provide at all times
5 efficient, speedy and inexpensive local and national government services to all and
6 ensure the accessibility and reliability of government information and resources. It is
7 thus the policy of the State to exert utmost effort in democratizing information,
8 streamlining transactions, and ensuring that all major and frontline government
9 services are available to the Filipino people through various media including the
10 internet and with software applications which can be navigated by a general
11 application in coordination with all government agencies and Instrumentalities.

12 The State recognizes the value of open data and content, usability and user
13 experience, ease of data exchange, and shall ensure user safety through appropriate
14 technical measures, and uphold data privacy rights in the pursuit of these ideals.

1 **Section 3. *Government Mobile Application Defined.*** – A government
2 mobile application hereinafter referred to as "GMA", and defined as a software
3 program created and implemented by a government agency or instrumentality that
4 can be run on a mobile phone, tablet, or other similar device and is designed to provide
5 or facilitate the acquisition of government information, services, or some other benefit,
6 shall be created and utilized by each government agency and instrumentality.

7 A GMA may be agency-centric or citizen-centric. Agency-centric GMAs are
8 applications intended for internal use of a government agency or instrumentality to
9 improve its efficiency and effectiveness. Citizen-centric GMAs are for the general public
10 to enable real-time public engagement and service.

11
12 **Section 4. *Government Mobile Applications Steering Committee.*** –
13 There is hereby established a Steering Committee composed of the following
14 members:

- 15 (a) Secretary of Department of Information and Communications Technology
16 (DICT), as Chairperson;
- 17 (b) National Statistician and Head of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); and
18 (c) Commissioner of the National Privacy Commission (NPC)
- 19 and representatives from the following agencies:
- 20 (d) Philippine Communications Operations Office (PCOO);
21 (e) Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office
22 (PCDSPO);
- 23 (f) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
24 (g) Department of National Defense (DND);
25 (h) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
26 (i) Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
27 (j) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
28 (k) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
29 (l) Department of Tourism (DOT);
30 (m) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
31 (n) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
32 (o) Department of Justice (DOJ); and

1 (p) Department of Finance (DOF).
2

3 The Steering Committee may, in the exercise of its functions and as it may
4 deem necessary, invite representatives from other relevant government agencies and
5 instrumentalities to serve as resource persons.

6 The DICT Secretary, as Chair of the Steering Committee and lead developer of
7 the TUGMA, may designate an office within the Department to act as Secretariat for
8 purposes of assisting the Steering Committee in monitoring compliance and
9 conducting periodic reviews.
10

11 **Section 5. *Functions of the Steering Committee.*** – The Steering
12 Committee shall:

- 13 (a) Develop and implement policies for the creation and use of GMAs to pursue
14 within the framework of Philippine law;
15 (b) Establish the uniform standards to be observed by all GMAs and digital service
16 platforms, guided by the principles enunciated in this Act;
17 (c) Prescribe the information and interface GMAs shall contain and display;
18 (d) Serve as the overall implementing body of the Transcendent Unified
19 Government Mobile Application (TUGMA), as well be hereinafter created;
20 (e) Conduct application security and assessment of all GMAs and digital service
21 platforms that will connect to TUGMA and will access local government services
22 and information;
23 (f) Monitor and require compliance from government agencies and centers with
24 respect to the policies, guidelines, and standards prescribed by the Steering
25 Committee;
26 (g) Conduct periodic reviews of the administration, operation, policies, rules, and
27 regulations governing GMAs, and update the same in order to reflect the best
28 practices and standards; and
29 (h) Perform other functions germane or related to the above-mentioned primary
30 functions and the declared policy of this Act.
31
32

1 **Section 6. *Uniform Standards.*** – In line with the declared policy of this Act, all
2 GMAs shall hereby observe the following uniform standards and characteristics:

3 (a) Open data and content;

4 (b) Usability and user experience;

5 (c) Ease of internal and external data exchange;

6 (d) Economical use of budget and resources;

7 (e) Intelligibility;

8 (f) Correctness;

9 (g) Dependability;

10 (h) Efficiency;

11 (i) Adaptability;

12 (j) Multi-lingual functionality;

13 (k) Wide-compatibility and interoperability; and

14 (l) Any other standard or quality that will be set by the Steering Committee,
15 which shall be consistent with this Act.

16
17 **Section 7. *Standardization of Data Structure.*** – The DICT shall prescribe
18 a standardized framework of data and data infrastructure which shall be observed
19 among government agencies and instrumentalities and shall facilitate the efficient
20 exchange of data in a useful format based on common standards. This shall ensure
21 that all of the data can be used reliably for different types of analyses and purposes,
22 including the creation of GMAs.

23
24 **Section 8. *Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application.*** –
25 The Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application hereinafter referred to as
26 “TUGMA”, is hereby created and shall be an online comprehensive portal designed to
27 provide users with basic things such as the contact details, requirements, citizen’s
28 charters, news, bulletins, and other helpful information about the country major
29 frontline government services and their associated agencies. It shall also be used to
30 redirect users to specific government applications, websites, or other platforms to
31 streamline transactions, process requests, provide information, and extend any other
32 beneficial use made possible through the implementation of modern technologies and

1 systems.

2

3 **Section 9. Lead Developer.** – The DICT shall be the lead agency tasked with
4 the design, development, implementation, distribution, maintenance, and
5 improvement of TUGMA. In line with the agency’s “Philippine Digital Transformation
6 Strategy 2022”, the creation of TUGMA shall pave way to delivering an environment
7 wherein government agencies will be encouraged and incentivized to create their own
8 applications for all major frontline services and collaborate in the context of their
9 respective functions and objectives.

10

11 **Section 10. Services and Features of TUGMA.** – TUGMA shall:

12 (a) Provide information and details regarding the different national agencies, local
13 government units, and their frontline programs including the services that they
14 offer, their contact information, addresses, service requirements, and citizen’s
15 charters;

16 (b) Enable its users to apply, register, or otherwise avail of frontline government
17 services and other facilities by being directed to specific applications, websites,
18 or platforms that directly cater to their needs;

19 (c) Facilitate government transactions by streamlining appointments with
20 government offices and the processing of documents, papers, reports,
21 certificates, deeds, information, and other requests;

22 (d) Contain or provide access to information regarding available public services,
23 facilities, functions, and other benefits of the government;

24 (e) Produce a versatile interface with a focus on maximizing usability and enriching
25 user experience;

26 (f) Reduce unnecessary expenditures by consolidating, if deemed prudent by the
27 Steering Committee, various services and GMAs already being provided;

28 (g) Function as an avenue wherein one may raise complaints, comments, and
29 suggestions concerning governmental functions;

30 (h) Fulfill any other function the Steering Committee may hereinafter provide
31 consistent with the aforementioned declaration of policy; and

32 (i) Provide users with information regarding the purpose and extend of the

1 processing of their personal data in relation to their transactions, including
2 where applicable, any data sharing, profiling, direct marketing, or the existence
3 of automated decision-making, as well as any other authorized further process.
4

5 **Section 11. *Philippine Identification System Integration.*** – The Philippine
6 Identification System, as established by Republic Act No. 11055 otherwise known as
7 the Philippine Identification System Act, shall be integrated with TUGMA and shall
8 form as the basis for registering and authenticating the Identity of a particular person
9 for purposes of using the TUGMA and to ensure security and privacy.
10

11 **Section 12. *National Government Portal Integration.*** – The National
12 Government Portal (NGP) of the DICT is hereby integrated, combined, or otherwise
13 absorbed by TUGMA and shall thus also include access to local government services
14 and information. To ensure maximum reach, access, and usability, the DICT shall
15 make TUGMA available on a website and as a desktop application, aside from the
16 mobile interface.

17 Government agencies and instrumentalities, if directed by the Steering
18 Committee, shall:

- 19 (a) Integrate their online services and GMAs with TUGMA;
20 (b) Form or designate an agency web administration team from permanent
21 personnel;
22 (c) Operate, maintain, and manage their respective online services integrated
23 into the NGP; and
24 (d) Produce regularly updated content for integration with TUGMA.
25

26 **Section 13. *Appropriations.*** – The funding requirements for the initial
27 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's budget of the
28 DICT. Thereafter, it shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
29

30 **Section 14. *Penal Clause.*** – Any unauthorized, fraudulent or unlawful use of
31 data and information in all GMAs and digital service platforms that will connect to
32 TUGMA and anyone who willfully violate any provision of this Act shall be held liable

1 under the pertinent provisions of the Data Privacy Act (RA 10173), Cybercrime
2 Prevention Act (RA 10175), and other relevant laws.

3
4 **Section 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90)
5 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Steering Committee shall convene and shall
6 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
7 this Act.

8
9 **Section 16. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
10 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected
11 shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

12
13 **Section 17. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders,
14 rules and regulations, or parts or provisions thereof which are not affected shall
15 continue to remain in full force and effect.

16
17 **Section 18. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

19
20 *Approved,*