



S. B. No. 67

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE USE OF "MOBILE APPLICATION PARA SA PILIPINO"
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "MOBILE A.P.P." IN THE DELIVERY OF BASIC
GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Modern problems require modern solutions. But complex problems are better solved through simple solutions. Government has many ongoing programs to deliver financial assistance to our people. With a yearly allotment of at least Php 100 Billion for social welfare programs, the issue is access to these funds, efficiency of the agencies in delivering these to intended beneficiaries.

The hardships brought about by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic have necessitated a more efficient and direct delivery of services and benefits to our countrymen. Promoting a more efficient and streamlined delivery of government services has become an imperative since the government now has the opportunity to bring services closer to the Filipinos through the efficient use of technology. However, the bureaucratic red tape has only served as a bottleneck to the full achievement of our state policy to "free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, rising standard of living, and improved quality of life for all."

The use of present technology affords the government the opportunity to bring itself and its services closer to the people. A contactless system, such as the mobile application that this Act seeks to establish, could elevate the country's response to the global COVID-19 pandemic given that as of 2020, 72.1% of Filipinos already have internet access through their mobile phones, and is projected to grow up to 77.1% by 2025.¹

The proposed mobile application would promote the financial inclusion of the most vulnerable sectors of society through the adoption of an expedient means of distribution of aid and other assistance. The previous Congress had successfully funded the government's COVID-19 response and stimulus programs such as

¹ <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/philippines-ecommerce>

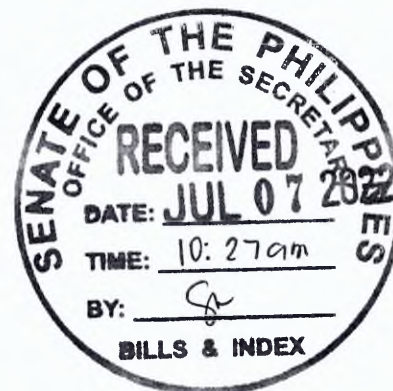
Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS), *Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers* (TUPAD), Medical Assistance to Indigent Patients (MAIP), among others. Funds are at the government's disposal. The present Congress now has the opportunity to put in place a system that will bridge the programs and its intended beneficiaries. Going digital will make these *ayuda* more accessible for our people. Help can be one click away. In addition, it will dispense with the need for personal appearance by the public, health workers, and personnel in government payments collection, thereby ensuring their health and safety.

This system could also pave the way for faster dissemination of important and urgent information, such as relevant updates on government guidelines and protocols, promoting transparency and making sure that the reports they receive are accurate to prevent any confusion or misunderstanding.

The government needs to take itself into the 21st century. For these reasons, the swift passage of the foregoing measure is earnestly sought.



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5 **FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

8 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Mobile A.P.P. Act.*"

9 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to provide a
10 more efficient and direct delivery of services to the public. It is also the policy of the
11 State to streamline its processes and reduce red tape. For this purpose, the
12 establishment of a mobile application for the delivery of basic government services
13 and the facilitation of government payments collection would eliminate possibilities
14 of corruption in the government’s provision of services.

15 A contactless system, such as a unified mobile application, would elevate and
16 advance the country’s assistance after the global Coronavirus Diseases 2019
17 pandemic. The use of a mobile application would dispense with the need for personal
18 appearance by the public, health workers, and government personnel in the
19 distribution of assistance and in the collection of payments, thereby ensuring their
20 health and safety.

21 This interoperable system would also allow for faster dissemination of
22 important and urgent information straight to the people, such as relevant updates on
23 government programs, assistance, and subsidies whilst making sure that the reports
24 they receive are accurate to prevent any confusion or misunderstanding.

25 Towards this end, this digital system shall ensure that the data collected is
26 secure and that the people’s right to privacy and other constitutional and statutory
27 rights are respected and protected at all times.

28 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following
29 terms are hereby defined as follows:

- 30 a) "Citizen" refers to a Filipino citizen, as defined in the Constitution, including
31 those with dual or multiple citizenships in accordance with Republic Act No.

1 9225, otherwise known as the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of
2 2003.

- 3 b) "Digital collection" refers to a mode of payment wherein a government entity
4 receives payments from individuals and entities through digital devices and
5 where payments can be made through bank transfers, electronic money and
6 payment cards.
- 7 c) "Digital disbursement" refers to a mode of payment wherein a government
8 entity disburses money or any equivalent electronic representations of legal
9 tender, for purposes of paying government expenditures, by crediting the
10 target recipient's transaction account through Advice to Debit Account or
11 Electronic Fund Transfer facilitated by the Government Servicing Bank, or any
12 other digital payment instruments allowed by existing laws and regulations.
- 13 d) "Digital payment" refers to a monetary payment transaction between two (2)
14 parties through a digital payment instrument in which both the payer and the
15 payee use an electronic channel.
- 16 e) "Electronic money (e-money)" refers to electronically stored money value
17 which is issued in accordance with relevant regulations and issuances of the
18 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).
- 19 f) "Interoperability" refers to the ability or capacity of computerized systems to
20 connect, exchange, and interpret shared data although developed by different
21 manufacturers in different industries to enable exchange of information
22 between applications, databases, and other computer systems.
- 23 g) "Mobile Application" refers to the contactless system to be established by this
24 Act.
- 25 h) "Mobile Registration" refers to the ability to register in transportable
26 registration devices or centers.
- 27 i) "Online Registration" refers to the ability to register using a computer or
28 similar device connected to the internet.
- 29 j) "QR Code" refers to the quick response (QR) which can be read easily by a
30 digital device and which stores information as a series of pixels in a square-
31 shaped grid, developed and issued by the Department of Information and
32 Communications Technology (DICT).
- 33 k) "Registration" refers to the act of entering the demographic and other relevant
34 information of citizens to the system.

35 **SECTION 4. Coverage.** – All departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of
36 the government, including state universities and colleges, government-owned or -
37 controlled corporations (Covered Agencies) are hereby directed and local
38 government units (LGUs) are hereby enjoined to adopt the Mobile A.P.P. developed
39 and established under this Act for efficient delivery of government services,
40 disbursements, and collections.

41 **SECTION 5. Mobile Application Para sa Pilipino (Mobile A.P.P.).** – The DICT
42 shall primarily be tasked for the development and establishment of the Mobile
43 Application Para sa Pilipino otherwise known as the "Mobile A.P.P." that is accessible
44 to all citizens and interoperable among government agencies, offices, and units.

45 For this purpose, the DICT may partner with relevant individuals, sectors,
46 entities, and companies for the development of a mobile application that may also be
47 accessible through a website, and if necessary, engage the services of such individuals,
48 sectors, entities, and companies.

1 The Mobile A.P.P. shall afford a user-friendly registration process. Thereafter,
2 a distinct QR Code shall be generated for each individual registrant taking into
3 consideration the efficient delivery of government services, the collection of
4 payments, and the implementation of necessary government programs, policies,
5 protocols, and guidelines.

- 6 a) Purposes – The use of the Mobile A.P.P. shall have the following purposes:
7 1. To facilitate the delivery of government services such as, but not limited to,
8 digital disbursement of financial assistance and other benefits, including
9 but not limited to:
10 a. Social Amelioration Program (SAP) under the Department of Social
11 Welfare and Development (DSWD);
12 b. Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced
13 Workers (TUPAD) and other cash-for-work programs of the
14 government under the Department of Labor and Employment;
15 c. Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) under the DSWD;
16 d. Stipends and other assistance to students under the Department of
17 Education (DepEd);
18 e. Student loans under the Landbank of the Philippines, Government
19 Service Insurance System (GSIS), or Social Security System (SSS);
20 f. Medical assistance under the Department of Health;
21 g. Loan programs under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
22 and
23 h. Social pensions from the DSWD and LGUs.
24 2. To improve government revenue system through digital collection of
25 payments for taxes, fees, tolls, and other charges and impositions;
26 3. To aid Filipino citizens in the registration, application, and validation
27 process for availing of government services; and
28 4. To disseminate information in a prompt and timely manner to appraise
29 Filipino citizens on matters relevant to their health and safety.
30 b) Security features – Measures shall be taken by the DICT to secure the
31 information, accounts, and QR Codes issued to Filipinos and to avoid possible
32 security compromises, breaches of financial accounts, and potential violations
33 of privacy.
34 c) Free of charge – No fees shall be collected regarding the provision or
35 generation of a Philippine QR Code.
36 d) Features – The Mobile A.P.P. shall, among others, have the following features:
37 1. Available and accessible for all and every mobile operating system, such as
38 but not limited to Android, iOS, and Windows and
39 2. Interoperable among all relevant government agencies and services and
40 linked to services provided by Financial Service Providers.

41 Nothing in this Act shall prevent government agencies from developing or
42 utilizing their own mobile applications or other information technology solutions to
43 implement their respective programs, actions, or projects.

44 **SECTION 6. Data to be gathered.** – The information required for registration
45 under the herein established Mobile A.P.P. shall be limited to the following:

- 46 a) Full Name;
47 b) Sex;
48 c) Date of Birth;

- 1 d) Place of Birth;
- 2 e) Address (Residence);
- 3 f) Marital Status;
- 4 g) Mobile Number (optional);
- 5 h) E-mail address (optional);
- 6 i) Health Status (indicate any comorbidities);
- 7 j) Willingness to be vaccinated or not;
- 8 k) Government assistance or benefit already being received, if any; and,
- 9 l) Details of bank account, e-money service (i.e., GCash, Pay Maya, Ali Pay), or
- 10 other preferred payment, if any.

11 **SECTION 7. Digital Payments Committee.** – A Digital Payments Committee
12 shall be created to provide guidance and promote cost-efficiency and transparency in
13 the procurement of digital payment solutions by Covered Agencies and LGUs. The
14 Committee shall be composed of representatives from the following agencies and
15 offices:

- 16 a. Department of Finance;
- 17 b. Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- 18 c. Bureau of Treasury;
- 19 d. Bureau of Internal Revenue; and
- 20 e. Government Procurement Policy Board.

21 **SECTION 8. Registration and Interoperability** – The DICT, in coordination
22 with other relevant agencies, shall develop and maintain a unified website for the
23 same purpose as the Mobile A.P.P. and shall ensure their interoperability among
24 relevant government agencies and supplied Financial Service Providers under
25 Section 6(l) of this Act.

26 The LGUs, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local
27 Government (DILG) and the DICT, shall conduct house-to-house registration, being
28 mindful of health protocols. They shall also organize temporary mobile registrations,
29 in such a number and frequency as needed, to allow individuals, especially those
30 without access to internet or without the proper electronic equipment, to register
31 under this Act.

32 Once an individual is issued a QR Code, LGUs may print out the QR Codes of
33 individuals upon the latter's request and without expense to them.

34 **SECTION 9. Special Registration of Minors, senior citizens, persons with**
35 **disabilities (PWDs), illiterate persons, and indigenous peoples.** – The DICT, in
36 creating the website and Mobile A.P.P., shall consider the vulnerabilities and special
37 needs of different individuals and sectors of society such as but not limited to minors,
38 senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and indigenous peoples. *Provided,*
39 *That registration of minors shall be with the consent of parents or guardians of legal*
40 *age. Provided, further, That QR codes generated for PWDs shall be printable in*
41 *documents that allow them to be readable by PWDs. Provided, finally, That traditions*
42 *and culture of indigenous peoples shall likewise be considered.*

43 **SECTION 10. Documentary requirements.** – Any of the following documents
44 shall be primary proof of recognition for purposes of verifying the registrant's
45 identity under this Act:

- 1 a. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-issued Certificate of Live Birth;
- 2 b. Any government-issued identification document which bears full name, front-
- 3 facing photograph, and signature or thumb mark;
- 4 c. Philippine Passport or e-Passport issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs
- 5 (DFA); or
- 6 d. GSIS or SSS-issued Unified Multi-purpose Identification Card (UMID).

7 If the registrant does not have any of the above-mentioned documents, he or
8 she may submit any of the following secondary documents:

- 9 a. National Statistics Office (NSO)-issued Certificate of Live Birth with Birth
- 10 Reference Number (BreN)
- 11 b. Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO)-issued Certificate of Live Birth
- 12 c. PSA-issued Report of Birth
- 13 d. PSA-issued Certificate of Foundling
- 14 e. Seaman's Book
- 15 f. Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) ID
- 16 g. License to Own or Possess Firearms (LTOPF) ID
- 17 h. National Bureau of Investigation Clearance
- 18 i. Police Clearance/ID
- 19 j. Solo Parent's ID
- 20 k. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) ID
- 21 l. PhilHealth ID

22 The following identification documents shall also be accepted as secondary
23 supporting documents provided that they have a front-facing photograph,
24 signature/thumbmark, full name, permanent address, and date of birth:

- 25 a. Employee ID
- 26 b. School ID
- 27 c. Barangay Clearance/Certificate
- 28 d. Barangay ID
- 29 e. City/Municipal ID

30 **SECTION 11. Protection of data.** – The DICT shall implement reasonable and
31 appropriate organizational, technical, and physical security measures to ensure that
32 the information gathered under this Act is protected from unauthorized access, use,
33 disclosure, and against accidental or intentional loss, destruction, or damage.

34 While upholding the confidentiality provisions under Republic Act No. 10625,
35 otherwise known as the “Philippine Statistical Act of 2013”, all data collated by the
36 DICT under this Act may be used to generate aggregate data or statistical summaries
37 without reference to or identification of any specific individual: *Provided*, that nothing
38 in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting or limiting the sharing or transfer of any
39 personal data that is already authorized or required by law.

40 **SECTION 12. Information Campaign.** - Within ninety (90) days from the
41 effectivity of this Act, the DICT, together with the DILG and other government
42 agencies, shall undertake an extensive information campaign to promote and explain
43 the concept and use of the Mobile A.P.P. to all citizens.

1 **SECTION 13. Establishment of Citizens' Grievance Hotline.** – The DICT shall
2 establish a Citizens' Information and Grievance Hotline which shall serve as a
3 mechanism where citizens may ask information, report complaints and grievances,
4 or request assistance relevant to the Mobile A.P.P.

5 **SECTION 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – Within sixty
6 (60) days upon approval of this Act, the DICT, together with appropriate government
7 agencies, shall promulgate rules and regulations and exchange existing technologies
8 and best practices on authentication and data security and development of the Mobile
9 A.P.P. to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

10 **SECTION 15. Pilot Testing.** – Within thirty (30) days after the promulgation
11 of the IRR of this Act, a pilot testing of the Mobile A.P.P. shall be conducted for the
12 delivery of one (1) basic program or service of an agency deemed appropriate by
13 DICT. In addition, within five (5) months from the implementation of the pilot testing,
14 Covered Agencies shall fully implement digital disbursements and collections.

15 **SECTION 16. Transition.** – All Covered Agencies are encouraged to establish
16 programs to capacitate their personnel on innovative technologies, cybersecurity,
17 and data privacy protection tools to ensure the full implementation of this Act.
18 Covered Agencies shall also ensure the continuous delivery of public services during
19 such transition, particularly the acceptance of non-digital mode of payments.

20 **SECTION 17. Appropriations.** – The sum deemed appropriate by DICT and
21 Department of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out
22 of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the
23 implementation of this Act.

24 **SECTION 18. Separability Clause.** If, for any reason, any portion or provision
25 of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not
26 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

27 **SECTION 19. Repealing Clause.** All laws, executive orders, proclamations,
28 rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with
29 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

30 **SECTION 20. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
31 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,