


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*



23 MAR -7 P5 :40

**SENATE**  
**S. B. No. 1978**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

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**AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO E-  
GOVERNANCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the 2022 United Nations E-government Survey, the Philippines ranked 89th out of 193 countries in terms of e-government development. Among the ASEAN States, Philippines placed behind six of its neighbor countries which are Singapore (ranked 12th), Malaysia (ranked 53rd), Thailand (ranked 55th), Brunei (ranked 68th), Indonesia (ranked 77th), and Vietnam (ranked 86th). The country's latest ranking slipped by twelve spots compared to the previous survey conducted in 2020. According to the survey, in the e-government development index' sub-components, the Philippines garnered an above-average score of 0.6303 and 0.7629 on the Online Service Index and Human Capital Index, respectively. However, the country's score on the Telecommunication Infrastructure Index was only 0.5638, which falls below the global average.

In this age of rapid adoption of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it is only necessary to harness the full potential of ICT, not just to keep up with the changing times but also to ensure that the government is able to meet the evolving needs of Filipinos especially in the digital space.

Envisioning to improve the performance of the country in the realm of digital government and governance, this measure seeks to provide effective leadership for

the development and promotion of electronic government services by embracing ICT. This bill also espouses the establishment of digital infrastructure development and interoperability of inter-agency systems and processes to bolster government's efficiency and productivity. Ultimately, this aims to enhance public trust and citizen participation in government by promoting the use of the internet and emerging ICT applications to provide citizen-centric government information and services.

This measure is among the several the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) identified as a priority under the administration of President Bongbong Marcos Jr., who has underscored several times the importance of jumpstarting the country's transition and evolution into the digital world. It should also be viewed as part of a series of ICT-focused measures that we've filed in the 19th Congress, which includes the e-Health System Services Act (SBN 91), the National Digital Transformation Act (SBN 625), the Local Information and Communications Technology Officer Act (SBN 627), and the Digital Payments Act (SBN 762).

Recognizing the need to advance a digitally-enabled government, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**SONNY ANGARA**

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INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO E-  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in  
Congress assembled:*

**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

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

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy and Purposes.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of information and communication in nation-building and the necessity of harnessing the power of information and communications technology (ICT) in pursuit of national development and progress. The State hereby adopts a policy to create, foster, and sustain a digitally empowered and integrated government that provides secure, responsive, and transparent online citizen-centered services and harnesses the potential of open data for promoting economic growth and growing a globally competitive Filipino nation.

In pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the following purposes:

- a) Provide effective leadership of government efforts to develop and promote electronic government services and processes by defining and identifying the roles of various government agencies in the entire digital transformation process;
- b) Promote the use of the internet, ICT and other digitally-enabled emerging technologies within and across government agencies to provide efficient, effective, transparent and citizen-centric government information and

- 1 services, and improve public trust and citizen participation in the  
2 government;
- 3 c) Promote ICT infrastructure development interoperability of inter-agency  
4 systems and processes through a consolidated process architecture;
- 5 d) Promote inter-agency collaboration and integration of related functions  
6 across government instrumentalities towards improving government  
7 services to citizens, and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the  
8 processes including but not limited to secure data and information sharing;
- 9 e) Improve the ability of the government to achieve agency missions and  
10 program performance goals;
- 11 f) Reduce costs and burdens for businesses and other government entities;
- 12 g) Promote the use of ICT to enable an informed and data-driven decision  
13 making by policy makers, taking into consideration data analytics results;
- 14 h) Promote the use of ICT in improving access to high quality government  
15 information and services across multiple channels;
- 16 i) Strengthen transparency and accountability efforts of the national and local  
17 governments;
- 18 j) Transform agency operations by utilizing, where appropriate, best practices  
19 from public and private sector organizations, both local and international;
- 20 k) Provide enhanced and secured access to government information and  
21 services in a manner consistent with laws regarding protection of data  
22 privacy, cybersecurity, national security, records retention, freedom of  
23 information, open data, access for persons with disabilities, and other  
24 relevant laws;
- 25 l) Promote ICT capacity development to create quality jobs and increase the  
26 employability of the Philippine workforce;
- 27 m) Ensure and take measures to update the qualification and competency  
28 standards of ICT positions in the government;
- 29 n) Promote digital literacy to enable Filipinos to participate in an evolving ICT  
30 age;

- 1 o) Promote and support innovation, including the creation of a conducive
- 2 environment for start-ups in providing better service to citizens, raise
- 3 efficiencies and productivity in the public sector;
- 4 p) Promote best practices where processes are documented, analyzed, or
- 5 streamlined before digitalization happens;
- 6 q) Build resilience to withstand the effects of disasters, pandemics, or
- 7 widespread information technology disruptions, including cybersecurity
- 8 attacks, that will limit its citizens' ability to transact;
- 9 r) Encourage the use of electronic devices where the mobility of citizens is
- 10 restricted; and
- 11 s) Grow and unlock the value of an open data economy.

12 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all executive, legislative, judicial  
13 offices, and constitutional offices, including local government units (LGUs), state  
14 universities and colleges, local universities and colleges, government-owned or  
15 controlled corporations (GOCCs) and other instrumentalities, whether located in the  
16 Philippines or abroad, that provide services covering business and nonbusiness related  
17 transactions as defined in this Act, subject to limitations under existing laws. *Further,*  
18 this Act shall also cover back-end government operations, within, between and across  
19 agencies, government-to-government transactions, particularly those involving  
20 sharing and processing of data and information between and among government  
21 agencies for policy, planning and decision-making purposes, and other government  
22 operations.

23 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As use in this Act:

- 24 a) *Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)* refers to an intermediary that allows
- 25 interaction between applications, programs, software components, systems,
- 26 hardware, and micro-services of different individuals or organizations;
- 27 b) *Chief Information Officer or CIO* refers to a senior officer in all national
- 28 government agencies, including constitutional offices, state universities and
- 29 colleges, local universities and colleges, government-owned and controlled
- 30 corporations, and government financial institutions responsible for the
- 31 development, planning and implementation of the agency's information



- 1 systems strategic plan or ICT plan, and management of the agency's ICT  
2 systems, platforms, and applications;
- 3 c) *Critical Information Infrastructure or Critical Infostructure (CII)* refers to  
4 computer systems, and/or networks whether physical or virtual, and/or the  
5 computer programs, computer data and/or traffic data that are so vital to this  
6 country, the incapacity or destruction or interference of which would have a  
7 debilitating impact on national security, economic development, national health  
8 and safety or any combination of those matters. Sectors initially classified as  
9 CIIs are the following: government transportation (land, sea, air), energy,  
10 water, health, emergency services, banking and finance, business process  
11 outsourcing, telecommunications, and media;
- 12 d) *Digitization* refers to the process of encoding information or procedure into  
13 digital form that can be read, manipulated, and utilized by digital technologies  
14 and platforms ;
- 15 e) *Digitalization* refers to the process of using digital technologies to enhance the  
16 operations of the government, and provide new revenue and value-producing  
17 opportunities;
- 18 f) *Digital Transformation* refers to the process of optimizing, reconstructing, and  
19 integrating digital technology into all areas of the government, to maximize  
20 resource configuration, improve operational efficiency and innovation  
21 capability, and enhance value delivery to stakeholders;
- 22 g) *E-Governance* refers to the application of ICT in the interactions between the  
23 different levels of government, business, and the citizenry. It also involves the  
24 implementation of internal government operations meant to simplify and  
25 improve both the democratic and economic aspects of governance;
- 26 h) *E-Government* refers to the use of information and communications technology  
27 to enhance the access to and delivery of public services, and to improve  
28 government efficiency, responsiveness, accountability, transparency, and  
29 integrity;
- 30 i) *ICT Assets* refer to any data, device, equipment, infrastructure, system, or  
31 component thereof, utilized to ensure or support the proper and efficient

- 1 operation and implementation of ICT-related programs and delivery of ICT  
2 services;
- 3 j) *ICT plan* refers to the sum or set of goals, measures, strategies, agenda, budget  
4 and timeline for the implementation of ICT programs and projects and the use  
5 of information and communications technology, including digital platforms, to  
6 deliver public services or otherwise perform governmental functions;
- 7 k) *Information and Communications Technology or ICT* refers to the totality of  
8 electronic means to access, create, collect, store, process, receive, transmit,  
9 present, regulate and disseminate information;
- 10 l) *Information Security Standards (ISS)* refers to generally acceptable security  
11 standards which aim to protect, and secure the confidentiality, integrity,  
12 availability, authenticity, and non-repudiation of information;
- 13 m) *Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP)* refers to the 3-year plan that serves  
14 as a government agency's roadmap for using ICT as a strategic resource to  
15 support the attainment of its goals, mission, and vision. It is also a written  
16 expression of how an agency intends to use ICT to support its data processing  
17 and decision-making processes;
- 18 n) *Internet* refers to a public enterprise network that shares data or application  
19 resources via Internet Protocol;
- 20 o) *Interoperability* refers to the ability of different operating and software systems,  
21 applications, and services to communicate, share functions, and exchange data,  
22 in an accurate, effective, and consistent manner to different platforms and  
23 agencies;
- 24 p) *Payment Service Provider (PSP)* refers to an entity, such as bank or non-bank  
25 electronic money issuer, that provides payment services to end-users, such as  
26 consumers, merchants, and billers, including government institutions;
- 27 q) *Privacy Engineering* refers to the integration of privacy concerns into  
28 engineering practices for systems and software engineering life cycle  
29 processes;
- 30 r) *Privacy-by-Design* refers to an approach in the development and  
31 implementation of projects, programs, and processes that integrates

- 1 safeguards that are necessary to protect and promote privacy into the design  
2 or structure;
- 3 s) *Privacy-by-Default* refers to a practice of applying the strictest privacy settings  
4 by default, without any manual input from the user, when a product or service  
5 has been deployed for public use; and
- 6 t) *Workflow* refers to the sequence of industrial, administrative, or other  
7 processes through which a piece of work passes from initiation to completion.

8  
9 **CHAPTER II**

10 **ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT**

11 **SEC. 5. *Responsibilities of the Heads of Government Agencies,***  
12 ***Offices, and Instrumentalities.*** – The head of each agency, office, and  
13 instrumentality of the national and local government, in consultation with the DICT,  
14 shall be responsible for:

- 15 a) Spearheading the development and implementation of a multi-year digital  
16 transformation plan specific to the agency or government instrumentality  
17 under their portfolio, based on a proper assessment of the readiness,  
18 capability, and necessity of the agency or government instrumentality to  
19 undertake such digital transformation;
- 20 b) Adhering to the requirements of this Act, including related standards for all  
21 ICT infrastructures, systems, equipment, designs, and all other technology,  
22 which shall be promulgated by the DICT;
- 23 c) Complying with the standards and protocols for cybersecurity, resiliency,  
24 and data privacy and confidentiality, which shall also be promulgated by  
25 the DICT in consultation with the National Privacy Commission (NPC);
- 26 d) Ensuring that the information technology standards promulgated by the  
27 DICT are communicated promptly and effectively to all relevant officials  
28 within their agency;
- 29 e) Supporting the efforts of the national and local government to develop,  
30 maintain, and promote an integrated system of delivering government  
31 information and services to the public;



- 1 f) In consultation with the DICT, establishing and implementing information  
2 security policy, freedom of information, open data policy, and standards  
3 within their organization, in consideration of their respective mandate or  
4 technology needs or risks; and
- 5 g) Conforming to the reengineering and streamlining requirements of Anti-  
6 Red Tape Authority (ARTA) as provided under Republic Act 11032 or the  
7 Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Services Act of 2018.

8 To these ends, agencies shall:

- 9 a) Formulate long-term digital transformation plans with clear objectives and  
10 measurable milestones, based upon a clear assessment of the readiness,  
11 capabilities, and relevance and necessity of undertaking such digital  
12 transformation;
- 13 b) Develop performance measures that demonstrate how ICT enables  
14 progress toward agency objectives, strategic goals, and statutory  
15 mandates;
- 16 c) In measuring performance, rely on existing data collections to the extent  
17 practicable and introduce new data collection schemes necessary for  
18 monitoring performance and deriving valuable insights. Areas of  
19 performance measurement that agencies should include customer service,  
20 agency productivity, and meaningful adoption of innovative information  
21 technology, including the appropriate use of industry best practices;
- 22 d) Link their performance goals, as appropriate, to key groups, including  
23 citizens, businesses, and other governments;
- 24 e) As appropriate, work collectively in linking their performance goals to key  
25 groups and shall use information technology in delivering government  
26 information and services to those groups;
- 27 f) Ensure that all information systems strategic plans (ISSPs) and ICT plans  
28 are updated annually and considered in their budget preparation activities;
- 29 g) Agencies shall regularly undertake cost compliance analysis, time and  
30 motion studies, undergo evaluation and improvement of their transaction  
31 systems and procedures and reengineer the same if deemed necessary to  
32 reduce bureaucratic red tape and process time;

1 h) Support the development of a digital competency framework in order to  
2 undertake a competency assessment of personnel and provide them with  
3 appropriate learning and development programs to strengthen their digital  
4 competency; and,

5 i) Be accountable for the implementation of the ISSP or ICT Plan.

6 *Provided, however,* That for purposes of efficiency and avoidance of redundancy,  
7 government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, with existing: (a) standards for  
8 all ICT infrastructures, systems, equipment, designs, and all other technology; (b)  
9 protocols for cybersecurity, resiliency and data privacy and confidentiality; (c) effective  
10 mechanism for communicating promptly and effectively all information technology  
11 standards within their agency; and (d) equipment, systems, programs and  
12 infrastructures, that substantially comply with the minimum requirements indicated in  
13 the relevant provisions of this Act, as well as those that already have existing  
14 government positions, such as Chief Information Officer or CIO, within their respective  
15 offices whose qualifications are aligned with the requirements under this Act, shall be  
16 allowed to maintain those existing standards, protocols, mechanisms, equipment,  
17 systems, programs, infrastructures and positions, and shall already be deemed  
18 compliant with the provisions hereof.

19 **SEC. 6. Role of the Department of Information and Communications**

20 **Technology.** – The DICT shall be the primary implementing body and principal  
21 administrator of this Act. In accordance with applicable laws and rules, and subject to  
22 limitations provided by the Constitution, the DICT shall ensure that all ICT projects in  
23 the Philippines shall be done in accordance with the National ICT Development Agenda  
24 and e-Government Masterplan, as provided under Republic Act No. 10844. For this  
25 purpose, the DICT shall establish measures to implement policies under this Act and  
26 ensure that all ICT projects in the Philippines, whether national or local are harmonized  
27 with the overall ICT plans and in compliance with applicable standards. Accordingly,  
28 the DICT shall:

29 a) Adopt a national policy and process that promotes innovation, supports  
30 start-ups, and facilitates the entry and adoption of technologies consistent  
31 with the goals of this Act;

- 1 b) Mandate support and supervise the government agencies in ensuring the  
2 quality, security, and reliability of their respective ICT infrastructure and  
3 services in accordance with international or industrial standards,  
4 specifications, and best practices, and direct the interconnection or  
5 interoperability of ICT infrastructure, systems, and facilities when necessary  
6 to achieve the goals of this Act;
- 7 c) Coordinate and/or collaborate with the private sector and enter into  
8 partnerships and joint ventures in accordance with the goals of this Act;
- 9 d) Mandate and supervise the adoption of policies and processes to ensure  
10 the implementation of this Act, including the adoption of a Roadmap to  
11 provide a strategic and phased whole- of-government transformation to e-  
12 Governance, with clear and identified milestones, and which explicitly  
13 defines the roles and responsibilities of covered government agencies,  
14 offices, and instrumentalities;
- 15 e) Regulate and supervise the operations of ICT infrastructure, systems, and  
16 facilities, and in the exercise of such functions, in accordance with  
17 applicable laws and rules;
- 18 f) Mandate government agencies, offices and instrumentalities to comply with  
19 the minimum qualification and competency standards of ICT positions in  
20 the government and require government agencies, offices, and  
21 instrumentalities, to regularly report the status of compliance thereto;
- 22 g) Engage technical and standards organizations and consult industry experts  
23 on matters requiring engineering inputs, enterprise architecture and other  
24 highly specialize concerns;
- 25 h) Where applicable, recognize the administrative autonomy provided by the  
26 Constitution for independent government agencies, offices, and  
27 instrumentalities in the implementation and enforcement of the foregoing;  
28 and
- 29 i) Develop in accordance with applicable civil service laws and rules,  
30 consistent with the compensation and position classification system of the  
31 government, the competency and qualification standards of all ICT  
32 positions in the government, and submit to the Department of Budget and

1 Management (DBM) the proposal for the creation and updating of current  
2 civil service positions for ICT workers, which include cybersecurity, data  
3 governance, data privacy, data analysis and insight, and other ICT-related  
4 government positions and the appropriate job levels and corresponding  
5 compensation rates aligned with the personnel needs of a digitized  
6 government and comparable with the prevailing industry rates, as well as  
7 the qualifications standards, duties and functions essential to the effective  
8 operation of government ICT infrastructure and systems: *Provided*, That  
9 government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, that have been  
10 exempted from the Salary Standardization Law and have been granted  
11 authority to formulate their own compensation and position classification  
12 systems, whose compensation, competency, and qualification standards  
13 are aligned with the minimum requirements under this Act, shall be allowed  
14 to maintain those existing compensation, competency, and qualification  
15 standards in the operation of government ICT infrastructure and systems.

16 **SEC. 7. The E-Governance Unified Project Management Office.** – Within  
17 one year from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT shall establish a government-wide  
18 E-Governance Unified Project Management Office (E-Gov-UPMO), which shall cater to  
19 and address the portfolio, program, and project management needs of government  
20 agencies, such as but not limited to the formulation of their respective digital  
21 transformation plans, with the end goal of ensuring that ICT projects across the  
22 government are managed with efficiency and agility, following international best  
23 practices and standards.

24 The DICT shall provide guidelines on the operation of the E-Gov-UPMO and the  
25 qualifications of personnel under the E-Gov-UPMO, who shall, at the minimum obtain  
26 internationally-recognized certifications and a required number of units on relevant  
27 courses such as but not limited to Project Management, Program Management, IT  
28 Service Management, the Enterprise Architecture, Information Security, Data Privacy,  
29 Risk Management, and other similar fields or specializations. For this purpose, the ICT  
30 Academy created under this Act, shall ensure that courses, multimodal training, and  
31 certifications to develop this human resource are regularly offered.



1           **SEC. 8. Chief Information Officer.** – Every government agency is authorized  
2 to create a *plantilla* position for Chief Information Officer (CIO) who shall ensure that  
3 ICT systems are developed and implemented which are properly secured and  
4 compliant with standards as determined and prescribed by the DICT and in accordance  
5 with relevant laws, rules, and regulations, including Republic Act No. 10173, or the  
6 “Data Privacy Act of 2012”.

7           The CIO shall perform the following functions:

- 8           a) Advise their respective mother agencies on how best to leverage ICTs  
9           to optimize the delivery of secured public services, and achieve efficient,  
10           and cost-effective operations;
- 11           b) Securely develop, maintain, and manage the agency’s information  
12           systems;
- 13           c) Manage and supervise the implementation of ICT related projects,  
14           systems, and processes;
- 15           d) Formulate and implement processes in relation to the adoption of ICT-  
16           based solutions, including emerging technologies as provided in the E-  
17           Government Plan;
- 18           e) Manage operational risks related to ICT in coordination with the  
19           agency’s management and stakeholders;
- 20           f) Ensure that the ICT programs and operations are consistent with  
21           national policies and standards;
- 22           g) Accelerate the use of open data, blockchain, and other emerging  
23           technologies; and,
- 24           h) Benchmark ICT programs and operations against ICT industry best  
25           practices.

26           Recruitment, selection, and appointment to the CIO position shall be in  
27 accordance with the relevant laws on civil service, its rules and regulations, and the  
28 competency standards prescribed by the DICT.

29           **SEC. 9. Inclusivity.** – In accordance with the provisions of this Act, when  
30 promulgating policies and implementing programs regarding the provision of  
31 government information and services over the internet and other platforms or  
32 channels, agency heads shall consider the impact on persons without access to such

1 platforms or channels, and shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that the availability  
2 of government information and services has not been or shall not be diminished for  
3 individuals and entities who lack access to the internet; and pursue alternate modes  
4 of delivery that make government information and services more accessible to  
5 individuals, either electronically or manually.

### 6 **CHAPTER III**

#### 7 **THE E-GOVERNMENT MASTER PLAN**

8 **SEC. 10. *E-Government Master Plan.*** – The DICT shall formulate and  
9 promote an E-Government Master Plan (EGMP) or its equivalent that will serve as a  
10 blueprint for the development and enhancement of all electronic Government service  
11 processes, and workforce to achieve digital transformation in the bureaucracy.  
12 Supplemental to this, an integrated framework shall be developed to provide the  
13 government enterprise architecture and operationalize the blueprint through programs  
14 and projects relating to e-government, in order to fully realize the vision, goals and  
15 objectives of the Master Plan. The EGMP and the accompanying integrated framework  
16 shall be reviewed and updated every three (3) years or earlier as the need arises, in  
17 anticipation of disruptions, emergencies, crises, and new and emerging technologies.

18 In order to effectively implement E-Governance across the government, a  
19 whole-of-government approach shall be adopted for the formulation and promotion  
20 of EGMP. This approach shall facilitate engagement primarily with the government  
21 agencies, instrumentalities, GOCCs, LGUs, Regional Development Councils (RDCs),  
22 ICT Councils, technical and standards organizations and other relevant stakeholders  
23 towards ensuring the full and effective implementation of the country’s E-Governance  
24 Agenda. All E-Government Programs identified herein and, in the future, as well as in  
25 the Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) of each government agency,  
26 instrumentality, and GOCCs shall be subject to mandatory review and monitoring by  
27 the DICT in order to be aligned with the EGMP and its accompanying integrated  
28 framework.

29 **SEC. 11. *E-Government Programs.*** – The DICT shall develop the following  
30 programs and systems that will be regularly updated in consultation with the  
31 stakeholders. The Department shall also ensure that such programs and systems are  
32 compliant with the standards imposed by relevant laws, rules, and regulations relating

1 to data privacy and security, including but not limited to Republic Act No. 10173,  
2 among others:

3 a) *Philippine Government Interoperability Framework* – A Philippine government  
4 interoperability framework shall guide and govern the basic technical and  
5 informational interoperability of government ICT systems. Such a framework  
6 shall provide shared operations and services of the Philippine government,  
7 between and among its various agencies, as well as for these agencies in  
8 dealing with their various constituencies. This shall be reviewed and updated  
9 regularly, to ensure that this framework is responsive with the current needs  
10 of the government and aligned with the newly adopted standards;

11 b) *Records and Knowledge Management Information System* – A records and  
12 knowledge management information system shall be designed to systematically  
13 and efficiently manage government documents, records and knowledge  
14 products and services. This includes the digitization of paper-based documents,  
15 records and knowledge products and services, as well as the re-engineering  
16 and digitalization of paper-based workflows, from creation, dissemination,  
17 processing, analysis, tracking, storing, verification and authentication, and  
18 archiving or disposal, while adhering to existing policies, laws and  
19 internationally-recognized standards and best practices;

20 A repository and corresponding Secure Application Programming  
21 Interfaces (APIs) shall be created for the common data sets, which include  
22 pricing data, demographic data, geospatial data, in order to improve  
23 publication, sharing and utilization of data across the government. The DICT  
24 shall ensure that such repository shall be in compliance with applicable data  
25 privacy laws and information security standards, in coordination with the  
26 National Privacy Commission (NPC). The DICT shall also establish a government  
27 data storage and interoperability platform or its equivalent to store all  
28 information and services that are currently housed in the government data  
29 center;

30 c) *Integrated Government Network* – An integrated, dedicated, interconnected,  
31 interoperable, secure and resilient government network, to be known as the  
32 "Integrated Government Network" (IGN) shall be established to act as the

1 primary means for the sharing and communication of resources, information,  
2 and data through digital and electronic platforms across all agencies of the  
3 government, covering all branches, agencies, instrumentalities, and offices of  
4 the national and local government, including government-owned and controlled  
5 corporations.

6 Such network shall also act as the government's primary and focal  
7 information management tool and communications network and the data traffic  
8 that will be coursed by the government agencies and key stakeholders through  
9 this network will be exchanged through a designated Government Internet  
10 Protocol Exchange (G/IPX) facility. Interconnectivity and interoperability  
11 measures shall be established and maintained between all existing internal  
12 networks and the IGN. This program shall also cover the acquisition and  
13 management of internet resources of the government, such as internet protocol  
14 (IP) addresses, and domain names, among others;

15 d) *Integrated Local Government Unit (ILGU) System* – In compliance with the  
16 immediately preceding paragraph, LGUs shall establish their own portal or  
17 utilize the Integrated Local Government Unit (ILGU) developed by the DICT, its  
18 equivalent programs and systems thereof: *Provided*, That LGUs that are unable  
19 to establish their own system within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act  
20 are mandated to utilize the ILGU or equivalent programs and systems:  
21 *Provided, further*, That LGUs establishing their own portal or those with existing  
22 portals shall immediately be connected by the DICT to the IGN, pursuant to  
23 Section 12, subparagraph (3) of this Act: *Provided, finally*, That the ILGU  
24 software or equivalent including its necessary infrastructure shall likewise be  
25 provided by the DICT for the effective use of the ILGU to the unserved and  
26 underserved municipalities;

27 e) *Government Digital Payment Systems for Collection and Disbursement* – An  
28 internet-based electronic payment facility and gateway that will enable citizens  
29 and businesses to remit and receive payments electronically or from  
30 government agencies shall be created. It shall render services through various  
31 delivery channels, which include debit instructions (ATM accounts), credit  
32 instructions (credit cards) and mobile wallets (mobile application/SMS). For this



1 purpose, the government may, in accordance with applicable laws and rules,  
2 engage the services of and interconnect with public and private Payment  
3 Service Providers (PSPs), systems, and facilities among others, consistent with  
4 the National Retail Payment System Framework of the Bangko Sentral ng  
5 Pilipinas (BSP).

6 These systems should smoothly interface with the current monitoring  
7 and accounting systems of the National Treasury;

- 8 f) *Citizen Frontline Delivery Services Platform* – Services that are needed to  
9 facilitate business and non-business transactions referring to permitting,  
10 licensing, and the issuance of any privilege, right, reward, clearance,  
11 authorization, or concession, including frontline services enrolled in the existing  
12 citizen’s charter, whether or not related to business, corresponding back-  
13 and/support services, and regulatory functions related to permitting, licensing,  
14 and the issuance of any privilege, right, reward, clearance, authorization, or  
15 concession shall be made efficient by integrating all agencies involved, such as  
16 but not limited to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of  
17 Foreign Affairs (DFA), Land Transportation Office (LTO), National Bureau of  
18 Investigation (NBI), Professional Regulation Commission, Department of Trade  
19 and Industry (DTI), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), BSP,  
20 Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR),  
21 Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS),  
22 Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), PAG-IBIG, and Philippine Health  
23 Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), into one platform and shall be made  
24 available in a form of portal, mobile applications and other applicable variations  
25 thereof.

26 All other government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, including  
27 local government units which provide frontline services, as defined under  
28 Republic Act No. 9485, or the “Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007” as amended by  
29 Republic Act No. 11032, shall file an application for integration with the DICT.  
30 All agencies, offices and instrumentalities that will be integrated shall establish  
31 and maintain measures to ensure that such services are accessible and capable  
32 of delivery to the public through the platform;

1 g) *Online Public Service Portal* – Complementing the Citizen Frontline Delivery  
2 Services Platform, an Online Public Service Portal shall be made accessible,  
3 through digital platforms, such as the internet and other information and  
4 communications technologies, to citizens of the Philippines, foreign nationals  
5 who have been lawfully admitted in the country, and businesses organized and  
6 existing or operating under the laws and rules of the Philippines for purposes  
7 consistent with the efficient delivery of public services. The Online Public  
8 Service Portal shall serve as a helpdesk where citizens can request for  
9 information and assistance on government frontline services, service  
10 procedures, and report commendations, appreciation, complaints, and  
11 feedback.

12 For the purposes of interoperability, interconnection and harmonization,  
13 all existing systems or mechanisms, such as 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center,  
14 government social media channels, established and/or maintained by agencies,  
15 offices, and instrumentalities, and local government units shall be integrated to  
16 the Online Public Service Portal. Likewise, the Online Public Service Portal shall  
17 be fully integrated with the integrated government network and Records and  
18 Knowledge Management Information System for real time updating of data and  
19 information.

20 To ensure that the public is served efficiently and expeditiously in  
21 accordance with the objectives of this Act, all national government agencies,  
22 offices, and instrumentalities, government-owned and controlled corporations  
23 (GOCC), government financial institutions, as well as the local government  
24 units, are hereby mandated to cooperate and coordinate with the Presidential  
25 Management Staff (PMS) and each other to ensure prompt action on the  
26 concerns received through the Online Public Service Portal and associated  
27 communication channels.

28 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, access to and use of the  
29 resources, information, and data through the portal shall be in accordance with  
30 all relevant laws, rules, and regulations on data and information privacy and  
31 the pertinent rules on confidentiality of government information, such as  
32 Republic Act No. 11032;

1 h) *Public Financial Management System* – The Public Financial Management  
2 System (PFMS) shall be developed to facilitate the efficient processing of  
3 government financial transactions and timely generation of accurate and  
4 reliable information on all aspects of the government financial transaction  
5 processes. This shall enable greater financial management and control of the  
6 oversight and government agencies; ensure strict compliance with the General  
7 Appropriations Act and corresponding rules and regulations; ensure strict  
8 compliance with the government accounting standards, policies, rules, and  
9 regulations significantly improve treasury cash management; facilitate the  
10 generation of financial reports; and ease reportorial requirements from the  
11 various levels of government. The PFMS, in coordination with the Department  
12 of Budget and Management and Department of Finance, shall provide for the  
13 Government Integrated Financial Management Information System, Treasury  
14 Single Account, efficient budget preparation and execution system, and cash  
15 release program based on reliable cash forecasting and programming, regular  
16 in-year reporting and timely year-end auditing and reporting of agency financial  
17 and physical operations and systematic recording and reporting of all liabilities  
18 of government agencies, entities, bureaus, and instrumentalities: *Provided,*  
19 That government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities granted by law and  
20 by their respective Charters with fiscal and administrative autonomy in the  
21 performance of their constitutional and statutory mandates, shall independently  
22 develop, maintain undertake, supervise, and regulate their own Financial  
23 Management Systems and shall only be required to coordinate and report to  
24 the DICT for purposes of alignment of policy objectives;

25 i) *Procurement System* – A modernized Philippine Government Procurement  
26 System shall be developed and implemented to provide an auditable online  
27 system that encompasses all procurement and supply chain management  
28 processes involving bidding, contract management, delivery, acceptance and  
29 payment for services or supplies: *Provided,* That government agencies, offices,  
30 and instrumentalities granted by law and by their respective Charters with fiscal  
31 and administrative autonomy in the performance of their constitutional and  
32 statutory mandates, shall independently develop, maintain, undertake,

1 supervise and regulate their own Procurement Systems and shall only be  
2 required to coordinate and report to the DICT for purposes of alignment of  
3 policy objectives;

4 j) *Human Capital Management Information System* – A Human Capital  
5 Management Information System (HCMIS) shall be developed in order to  
6 eliminate paper-based and manual human resource (HR)-related processes.  
7 Consistent with the applicable civil service laws and rules, the HCMIS shall  
8 automate the following HR-related functions in the government: recruitment  
9 and selection, appointment preparation and submission, personnel records  
10 keeping, salary, benefits and payroll administration, leave management,  
11 learning and development, rewards and recognition and performance  
12 management, among others. Further, this system shall utilize analytics and  
13 other emerging technologies to provide better and more relevant insights  
14 necessary for strategic HR functions such as performance management,  
15 forecasting, promotion, succession planning, among others: *Provided*, That  
16 government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities granted by law and by their  
17 respective Charters with fiscal and administrative autonomy in the performance  
18 of their constitutional and statutory mandates, including those that have been  
19 exempted from the Salary Standardization Law and have been granted  
20 authority to formulate their own classification systems, shall be allowed to  
21 independently develop, maintain, undertake, supervise and regulate their own  
22 HCMIS and shall only be required to coordinate and report to the DICT for  
23 purposes of alignment of policy objectives; and

24 k) *Government Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Program* – The DICT shall  
25 encourage and promote the use of Government PKI digital certificates that shall  
26 allow paperless transactions and remote approval of signatories in the  
27 government. This would reduce red tape, and enforce Ease of Doing Business.  
28 The adoption of PKI aims to strengthen e-government security through its  
29 implementation in all government offices and supply of digital certificates to the  
30 citizens. The PKI digital certificates shall ensure the security of digital data and  
31 transactions by providing the following feature:

1. Authentication to prevent unauthorized disclosure of information;



- 1                   2. Confidentiality to ensure that a message shall remain unmodified
- 2                   during transmission;
- 3                   3. Integrity to validate that the senders are exactly who they say they
- 4                   are; and
- 5                   4. Non-repudiation to ensure non-deniability of actions by any party.

6                   **SEC. 12. *Privacy Impact Assessment.*** – A mandatory Privacy Impact  
7 Assessment (PIA), in accordance with relevant NPC guidelines shall be conducted on  
8 the proposed systems involved in processing personal data included in the EGMP prior  
9 to its publication to identify privacy risks and establish the appropriate controls  
10 framework, in line with existing data privacy and cybersecurity standards.

11                   **SEC. 13. *Minimum Information Security Standards Compliance.*** – The  
12 DICT shall establish and implement minimum Information Security Standards that are  
13 aligned with internationally accepted standards as well as relevant laws, rules and  
14 regulations including the information security standards and policies promulgated by  
15 the DICT, shall be established and implemented. Such standards shall cover all ICT  
16 systems used for E-Government.

17                   **SEC. 14. *Protection of Government Critical Information Infrastructure***  
18 ***(CII).*** – The DICT, in coordination with relevant government agencies and  
19 stakeholders, shall issue guidelines for the protection of government Critical  
20 Information Infrastructure (CII) identified in the EGMP. All government CIIs shall be  
21 subjected to Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) before  
22 deploying such infrastructure. Further, an annual risk and security assessment shall  
23 be conducted at least once a year.

24                   **SEC. 15. *Public Service Continuity Plan.*** – All ICT systems and  
25 infrastructure covered in the priority programs of the EGMP as well as ISSPs shall be  
26 included as part of the Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP) of all government  
27 agencies and instrumentalities, for the purpose of ensuring the continuous delivery of  
28 essential agency functions, notwithstanding any emergency or disruptions, consistent  
29 with the existing issuances of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management  
30 Council (NDRRMC) and Civil Service Commission (CSC).

31                   **SEC. 16. *National E-Government Index and E-Government Maturity***  
32 ***Survey.*** – The DICT shall, in coordination with other government agencies, establish

1 a national E-Government Development Index which provides globally competitive E-  
2 Government indicators, definitions and statistical standards. A manual for measuring  
3 e-government indicators shall be also developed to institutionalize the framework of  
4 measurement.

5 To support the establishment of this index and to assess the ICT readiness and  
6 maturity level of government agencies, an E-Government Maturity survey shall be  
7 conducted annually. The results of this survey shall primarily be used for the  
8 formulation and updating of EGMP.

9 **SEC. 17. *Free Access to the Internet for the Public.*** – Republic Act No.  
10 10929 or the “Free Internet Access in Public Places Act” shall complement this Act.

11 To further promote knowledge-building among citizens and enable them to  
12 participate and compete in the evolving information and communications age, the Free  
13 Public Internet Access Program shall likewise provide, through its Free Public Internet  
14 Access Fund (FPIAF), the associated or related computer systems and programs,  
15 databases and/or management and information systems, including the provisions of  
16 core transmission and distribution networks to support the said programs, subject to  
17 compliance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

#### 18 **CHAPTER IV**

#### 19 **THE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES AND E-BULLETIN BOARDS**

20 **SEC. 18. *The Government E-Bulletin Board.*** – The government and all its  
21 agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, including local governments, shall  
22 continuously improve their existing website and establish an e-Bulletin Board for  
23 purposes of information dissemination. The website shall be interactive, well-  
24 designed, functional, and mobile-friendly. Security and accessibility of the website  
25 shall be ensured. Website content shall be regularly updated.

26 **SEC. 19. *Information Dissemination Through the Website and Board.***  
27 – All government offices, agencies, and instrumentalities which are mandated by the  
28 laws or rules to publish or otherwise disseminate notices, documents, or other  
29 information intended for public consumption and information shall, in addition to the  
30 traditional modes of publication, publish such notices, documents, or other information  
31 on the website and e-bulletin board and other verified official government social media  
32 accounts.

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act and other relevant laws, publication  
2 of notices, documents, or any other information on the website and e-bulletin board  
3 shall be construed as sufficient notice to the public for purposes of compliance with  
4 laws and rules requiring publication: *Provided*, That such website or bulletin board is  
5 accessible at such point in time where accessibility is claimed. For purposes of this  
6 provision, the start of publication shall be the date on which the notice, document, or  
7 information was first uploaded and made accessible to the public.

8 **SEC. 20. *Minimum Standards for Government Websites and***  
9 ***Information Portals.*** – The following shall be the minimum standards for  
10 government websites and information portals:

- 11 a) It shall include direct and easily identifiable links to: (i) description of the  
12 mission, statutory authority, and the organizational structure of the agency;  
13 and (ii) commonly asked questions and the corresponding answers, and other  
14 common matters of public concern;
- 15 b) It shall include direct and easily identifiable links to the relevant and applicable  
16 portals for the delivery of public services;
- 17 c) It shall include the ability to provide access to public information via an API;
- 18 d) It shall include an up-to-date government directory containing the contact  
19 information, such as emails, telephone numbers, and the likes, of the offices  
20 and officials within an agency; and
- 21 e) It shall be compliant with the Philippine Web Accessibility policy, or any relevant  
22 and updated issuance from the DICT.

## 23 **CHAPTER V**

### 24 **SECURITY AND PRIVACY**

25 **SEC. 21. *Data and Information Security.*** – All resources, information, or  
26 data stored on or transmitted through the government information systems and all  
27 networks interconnected to and interoperable with it, the portals, and websites shall  
28 be kept secure and free from interference or unauthorized access that can hamper or  
29 otherwise compromise the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the information  
30 and communication technology assets.

31 Access to and use of the resources, information, and data on the government  
32 information systems shall be limited to the government and its duly authorized officers

1 and agents, in accordance with all relevant laws, rules, and regulations on data and  
2 information privacy and the pertinent rules on confidentiality of government  
3 information: *Provided*, That the data used by all concerned government agencies,  
4 offices, and instrumentalities with access to information systems and used data stored  
5 therein shall be destroyed or disposed of in accordance with acceptable standards and  
6 guidelines existing under the law for disposal of data upon fulfillment of its purpose.

7 Any person who shall knowingly commit an act which results to the compromise  
8 of the security and integrity of the government information systems and all networks  
9 interconnected to and interoperable with it to the detriment of the government and  
10 the public shall incur criminal liability in accordance with the provisions of applicable  
11 and/or relevant penal laws.

12 **SEC. 22. *Responsibility of the National and Local Government.*** – All  
13 agencies, offices, and instrumentalities of the national and local government under  
14 this Act shall be responsible for:

- 15 a) Providing information security protections commensurate with the risk and  
16 magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure,  
17 disruption, modification, or destruction of information collected or maintained  
18 by or on behalf of the agency; and information systems used or operated by  
19 an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of  
20 an agency;
- 21 b) Determining the levels of information security appropriate to protect such  
22 information and information systems and implementing the same in  
23 coordination with the DICT;
- 24 c) Periodically testing and evaluating information security controls and techniques  
25 to ensure that they are effectively implemented;
- 26 d) Complying with the requirements of pertinent laws on information security and  
27 privacy, related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines, including  
28 information security standards promulgated by the DICT and information  
29 security standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in  
30 accordance with law and as directed by the President of the Philippines;
- 31 e) Ensuring that information security management processes are integrated with  
32 agency strategic and operational planning processes; and



1 f) Adopting the Privacy-by-Design, Privacy Engineering, and Privacy-by-Default  
2 principles in developing, implementing, and deploying systems, processes,  
3 software applications, and services throughout the processing of personal data.

4 **SEC. 23. *Master Data Management.*** – In order to have access to the most  
5 updated data, the government shall establish and maintain measures for ensuring that  
6 the parent government agency responsible for a set of data shall own, maintain,  
7 update, and protect the data while giving access via secure Application Programming  
8 Interface (API) to other agencies.

## 9 CHAPTER VI

### 10 PARTICIPATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

11 **SEC. 24. *Government Cooperation with the Private Sector.*** – Nothing in  
12 this Act shall prevent the government, both national and local, from entering into  
13 contracts, agreements, or partnerships with the private sector to provide various  
14 resources, assets, and services in order to comply or enhance compliance with the  
15 provisions of this Act.

16 Any and all contracts or agreements with the private sector within the context  
17 of this Act shall be subject to the laws and rules on public accountability and  
18 transparency and good governance.

## 19 CHAPTER VII

### 20 THE ICT ACADEMY

21 **SEC. 33. *Establishment of the ICT Academy and Its Purposes.*** – The  
22 DICT shall reorganize and restructure its ICT Literacy and Competency Development  
23 Bureau to establish and develop rules and policies for the operations of an ICT  
24 Academy, hereinafter referred to as the Academy that shall have the following  
25 purposes:

- 26 a) To be a National Center of Excellence for ICT Education;
- 27 b) To promote education for purposes of enhancing the nation's labor  
28 capacity in relation to the most relevant and updated data on local and  
29 international skills supply and demand;
- 30 c) To promote, foster and conduct quality ICT education for the capacity  
31 development of all citizens;

- 1 d) To foster and support the strategic goals of the national ICT  
2 development agenda, as provided in Republic Act No. 10844 through  
3 data collection and globally competitive ICT skills development programs  
4 and for other purposes;
- 5 e) To conduct programs and activities for the capacity development of all  
6 citizens to be able to gain globally competitive skills and drive inclusive  
7 economic growth;
- 8 f) Create and foster partnerships with different persons, entities, and  
9 institutions for purposes of developing and updating the Academy's  
10 resources, its ICT curriculum, modules, and pedagogical approaches;
- 11 g) To promote gender parity through technology education;
- 12 h) To ensure continuous learning and development of educators on current  
13 and emerging ICT trends;
- 14 i) To promote immersion of learners to industry partners whether it be  
15 private or in the public sector;
- 16 j) To establish and implement a scholarship system offered to qualified  
17 individuals in training and programs under the Academy or other  
18 activities approved by the DICT Secretary;
- 19 k) To facilitate the screening, admission process and monitoring of all  
20 admitted scholars;
- 21 l) To spearhead academic research and development related to ICT;
- 22 m) To regularly assess the state of the country in terms of comparative ICT  
23 skills, digital competence, and performance and suggest responsive  
24 policies to address concerns; and
- 25 n) To collaborate with the Department of Education, the Commission on  
26 Higher Education, the Technical and Skills Development Authority, the  
27 Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), SUCs, LUCs, and the  
28 private industry in developing curricula and courses for learners and  
29 students on ICT, to upskill the ICT proficiency and competency of  
30 individuals.

31 **SEC. 34. *Satellite Units.*** – The Academy may establish satellite units in the  
32 existing DICT offices in particular regions, provinces or municipalities in the country.

1 To ensure broader access to quality ICT training and skills development and to further  
2 enhance the capability of the Academy to attain its purposes, additional satellite units  
3 may be established upon determination of the DICT and in coordination with the  
4 Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development  
5 Authority.

6 **SEC. 35. Access and Admission.** – The Academy shall be accessible to all  
7 citizens regardless of skill, age, gender, religious belief, economic status, ethnicity,  
8 physical disability, political opinion or affiliation.

9 The DICT, through the ICT Academy, shall promulgate an admission process  
10 that is fair and inclusive to ensure that citizens shall have equitable access to ICT  
11 education and that the broadest base of the citizenry shall have ICT education.

12 **SEC. 36. Finances.** – The operations of the Academy shall be financially  
13 supported by a budget from the DICT, reasonable fees and dues collected, as well as  
14 through donations, in accordance with applicable laws and rules.

15 Donations collected shall be held in a fund, to be administered in trust by a  
16 Committee created by the DICT for such purpose. The fund shall in no case be  
17 impaired. Donations received shall be used only for the purposes for which they were  
18 donated.

19 **SEC. 37. Partnerships.** – The Academy may form partnerships with different  
20 educational institutions, technical and standards organizations, and private entities for  
21 purposes of achieving the goals of the Academy.

22 Partnerships may be in the form of research collaborations, resource sharing,  
23 module and training development, faculty exchange standards development, training  
24 collaborations, internships, apprenticeships, and other similar forms.

25 All partnerships to be entered into by the Academy shall be in accordance with  
26 the provisions of this law, and approved by the DICT Secretary. There shall be no  
27 disbursement of any funds by the Academy or the government for the purpose of  
28 establishing these partnerships.

29 The ICT Academy shall be empowered to accredit courses offered by  
30 educational institutions, private or public, following strict competency standards and  
31 guidelines developed by the DICT.

32 **CHAPTER IX**

1 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

2 **SEC. 38. *Transitory Provisions.*** – In accordance with the objectives of this  
3 Act, the DICT, in coordination with relevant government agencies and  
4 instrumentalities, as well as private stakeholders and civic organizations, shall study,  
5 formulate, and implement a master plan for the transition of the government and its  
6 provision of services in the digital age.

7 All new positions created under this Act shall be prioritized, subject to the  
8 review and approval of the DBM. Moreover, until such time that the government shall  
9 have completed the transition in accordance with the objectives of this Act, all  
10 government activities covered under this Act shall be conducted in the manner  
11 provided for under existing laws and rules.

12 The government shall complete the transition within a period of three (3) years  
13 from the effectivity of this Act.

14 **SEC. 39. *Regular Status Reports.*** – All agencies, offices, and  
15 instrumentalities of the national and local governments covered under this Act shall  
16 submit to the President, both Houses of Congress, and DICT, an annual report on the  
17 status of implementation of this Act. These reports shall likewise be made publicly  
18 available on and through the e-portals. The status report shall include the following:

- 19 a) The status of the implementation of electronic government initiatives in  
20 accordance to its approved ICT Plan;  
21 b) Compliance by the agency with this Act; and  
22 c) Performance in delivering programs through the e-government to  
23 constituencies.

24 **SEC. 40. *E-Government Interoperability Fund (EIF).*** – There is hereby  
25 created an E-Government Interoperability Fund (EIF) under the management of the  
26 DICT to provide financing for the implementation of the EGMP, E-Government  
27 Programs and Government Websites, including ILGU System, among others, which  
28 shall be primarily sourced from the Spectrum User’s Fees collected by the National  
29 Telecommunications Commission (NTC). The EIF may be funded through other  
30 sources to be identified by the DBM, as well as grants and loans from development  
31 and foreign partners, subject to compliance with applicable laws and regulations, or  
32 through applicable public-private partnership mechanisms.



1           **SEC. 41. Appropriations and Funding.** – The amount necessary to cover  
2 the initial implementation of this Act in the national government level shall be charged  
3 against the current year's appropriation of the national government agency, office, or  
4 instrumentality concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for its continued  
5 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

6           The amount necessary to implement this Act in the local government level shall  
7 be charged against the funds of the local government unit concerned.

8           **SEC. 42. Application of RA No. 11312.** – All ICT employees across all  
9 government agencies and instrumentalities, providing technical and administrative  
10 support to the implementation of all E-Government Programs in their respective  
11 agencies, shall be covered by RA No. 11312, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for  
12 Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other S&T Personnel in the Government,  
13 Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8439.

14           **SEC. 43. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within one hundred-  
15 eighty (180) from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in coordination with relevant  
16 offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the national and local government, shall  
17 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to properly and efficiently implement  
18 the provisions of this Act.

19           **SEC. 44. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on E-Governance.**  
20 – There shall be created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on E-Governance  
21 (JCOCEG) which shall monitor and ensure the effective implementation of this Act. It  
22 shall determine weaknesses and loopholes in the law, recommend the necessary  
23 remedial legislation or administrative measures and perform such other duties and  
24 functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives of this Act.

25           The JCOCEG shall be composed of three (3) members from the Senate and three  
26 (3) members from the House of Representatives, in addition to the Chairperson of the  
27 Senate Committee on Science and Technology and the Chairperson of the House of  
28 Representatives Committee on Information and Communications Technology:  
29 *Provided, That one (1) member of each chamber's nominees shall come from the*  
30 *ranks of the minority party.*

31           The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Science and Technology and the  
32 Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee on Information and

1 Communications Technology shall act as co-Chairpersons of the JCOCEG. The minority  
2 members nominated by both the Senate and the House of Representatives shall act  
3 as co-Vice Chairpersons. The Secretariat of the JCOCEG shall come from the existing  
4 Secretariat personnel of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Senate and  
5 the Committee on Information and Communications Technology of the House of  
6 Representatives. The JCOCEG shall have its own independent counsel.

7 The JCOCEG shall exist for a period not exceeding five (5) years from the  
8 effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, its oversight functions shall be exercised by the  
9 Senate Committee on Science and Technology and the House of Representatives  
10 Committee on Information and Communications Technology, acting separately.

11 **SEC. 45. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared  
12 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any affected thereby shall remain in  
13 force and effect.

14 **SEC. 46. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
15 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions  
16 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

17 **SEC. 50. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its  
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
19 circulation.

*Approved,*