



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7327

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO E-GOVERNANCE
IN THE DIGITAL AGE, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE
INFOSTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

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

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

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

- 10 a) Provide effective leadership of government efforts to develop and promote
11 electronic government services and processes by defining and identifying the roles
12 of various government agencies in the entire digital transformation process;
- 13 b) Promote the use of the internet, ICT and emerging technologies within and across
14 government agencies to provide citizen-centric government information and
15 services, and improve public trust and citizen participation in the government;
- 16 c) Promote ICT infrastructure development interoperability of inter-agency systems
17 and processes through a consolidated process architecture;
- 18 d) Promote inter-agency collaboration in providing government services, to improve
19 the service to citizens by integrating related functions, and in the use of ICT to
20 enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the processes including but not limited

- 1 to secure data and information sharing;
- 2 e) Improve the ability of the government to achieve agency missions and program
3 performance goals;
- 4 f) Reduce costs and burdens for businesses and other government entities;
- 5 g) Promote the use of ICT to enable an informed and data-driven decision making by
6 policy makers, taking into consideration data analytics results;
- 7 h) Promote the use of ICT in improving access to high quality government
8 information and services across multiple channels;
- 9 i) Strengthen transparency and accountability efforts of the national and local
10 governments;
- 11 j) Transform agency operations by utilizing, where appropriate, best practices from
12 public and private sector organizations, both local and international;
- 13 k) Provide enhanced and secured access to government information and services in a
14 manner consistent with laws regarding protection of data privacy, cybersecurity,
15 national security, records retention, freedom of information, open data, access for
16 persons with disabilities, and other relevant laws;
- 17 l) Promote ICT capacity development to create quality jobs and increase the
18 employability of the Philippine workforce;
- 19 m) Ensure and take measures to update the qualification and competency standards of
20 ICT positions in the government;
- 21 n) Promote digital literacy to enable Filipinos to participate in an evolving ICT age;
- 22 o) Promote and support innovation, including the creation of a conducive
23 environment for start-ups in providing better service to citizens, raise efficiencies
24 and productivity in the public sector;
- 25 p) Promote best practices where processes are documented, analyzed, or streamlined
26 before digitalization happens;
- 27 q) Build resilience to withstand the effects of disasters, pandemics, or widespread
28 information technology disruptions, including cybersecurity attacks, that will limit
29 its citizens' ability to transact;
- 30 r) Encourage the use of electronic devices where the mobility of citizens is restricted;
31 and
- 32 s) Promote the establishment of an open data economy by unlocking the economic
33 value of opening government, public and private data.

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

10 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- 11 a) *Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)* refers to an intermediary that allows interaction
12 between applications, programs, software components, systems, hardware, and micro-
13 services of different individuals or organizations;
- 14 b) *Chief Information Officer or CIO* refers to a senior officer in all national government agencies,
15 including constitutional offices, state universities and colleges, government-owned and
16 controlled corporations, and government financial institutions responsible for the
17 development, planning and implementation of the agency’s information systems strategic
18 plan or ICT plan, and management of the agency’s ICT systems, platforms, and
19 applications;
- 20 c) *Critical Information Infrastructure or Critical Infostructure (CII)* refers to the computer systems,
21 and/or networks whether physical or virtual, and/or the computer programs, computer
22 data and/or traffic data that are vital to this country that the incapacity or destruction or
23 interference with such system and assets would have a debilitating impact on security,
24 national or economic security, national health and safety or any combination of those
25 matters. Sectors initially classified as CIIs are the following: government transportation
26 (land, sea, air), energy, water, health, emergency services, banking and finance, business
27 process outsourcing, telecommunications, and media;
- 28 d) *Digitization* refers to the process of encoding information or procedure into digital form that
29 can be read and manipulated by computers;
- 30 e) *Digitalization* refers to the process of using digital technologies to enhance the operations of
31 the government, and provide new revenue and value-producing opportunities;
- 32 f) *Digital Transformation* refers to the process of optimizing, reconstructing, and integrating
33 digital technology into all areas of the government, to maximize resource configuration,

- 1 improve operational efficiency and innovation capability, and enhance value delivery to
2 stakeholders;
- 3 g) *E-Governance* refers to the application of ICT in establishing interaction between the
4 different levels of government, business, and the citizenry. It also involves the
5 implementation of internal government operations meant to simplify and improve both the
6 democratic and business aspects of governance;
- 7 h) *E-Government* refers to the use of information and communications technology by the
8 government to enhance the access to and delivery of government services to bring about
9 efficient, responsive, ethical, accountable and transparent government;
- 10 i) *ICT Assets* refer to any data, device, equipment, infrastructure, system, or component
11 thereof, utilized to ensure or support the proper and efficient operation and
12 implementation of ICT-related programs and delivery of ICT services;
- 13 j) *ICT plan* refers to the sum or set of goals, measures, strategies, agenda, budget and timeline
14 for the implementation of ICT programs and projects and the use of information and
15 communications technology, including digital platforms, to deliver public services or
16 otherwise perform governmental functions;
- 17 k) *Information and Communications Technology or ICT* refers to the totality of electronic means to
18 access, create, collect, store, process, receive, transmit, present, regulate and disseminate
19 information;
- 20 l) *Information Security Standards (ISS)* refers to generally acceptable security standards which
21 aim to protect, and secure the confidentiality, integrity, availability, authenticity, and non-
22 repudiation of information;
- 23 m) *Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP)* refers to the 3 year plan that serves as the agency's
24 roadmap for using ICT as a strategic resource to support the attainment of its goals,
25 mission, and vision and it is also a written expression of how an agency intends to use ICT
26 to support its data processing and decision-making processes;
- 27 n) *Internet* refers to a public enterprise network that shares data or application resources via
28 Internet Protocol;
- 29 o) *Interoperability* refers to the ability of different operating and software systems, applications,
30 and services to communicate and exchange data in an accurate, effective, and consistent
31 manner to different platforms and agencies;
- 32 p) *Privacy Engineering* refers to the integration of privacy concerns into engineering practices
33 for systems and software engineering life cycle processes;

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

9 CHAPTER II

10 ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT

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

- 15 a) Adhering to the requirements of this Act, including related standards for all ICT
16 infrastructures, systems, equipment, designs, and all other technology, which shall
17 be promulgated by the DICT;
- 18 b) Complying with the standards and protocols for cybersecurity, resiliency, and data
19 privacy and confidentiality, which shall also be promulgated by the DICT in
20 consultation with the National Privacy Commission (NPC);
- 21 c) Ensuring that the information technology standards promulgated by the DICT are
22 communicated promptly and effectively to all relevant officials within their agency;
- 23 d) Supporting the efforts of the national and local government to develop, maintain,
24 and promote an integrated system of delivering government information and
25 services to the public;
- 26 e) In consultation with the DICT, establishing and implementing information security
27 policy, freedom of information, open data policy, and standards within their
28 organization, in consideration of their respective mandate or technology needs or
29 risks; and
- 30 f) Conforming to the reengineering and streamlining requirements of Anti-Red Tape
31 Authority (ARTA) as provided under Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing
32 Business and Efficient Services Act of 2018.

33 To these ends, agencies shall:

- 34 a) Develop performance measures that demonstrate how ICT enables progress toward

1 agency objectives, strategic goals, and statutory mandates;

- 2 b) In measuring performance, rely on existing data collections to the extent practicable
3 and introduce new data collection schemes necessary to collect performance data
4 and derive valuable insights. Areas of performance measurement that agencies
5 should include customer service, agency productivity, and adoption of innovative
6 information technology, including the appropriate use of industry best practices;
- 7 c) Link their performance goals, as appropriate, to key groups, including citizens,
8 businesses, and other governments;
- 9 d) As appropriate, work collectively in linking their performance goals to key groups
10 and shall use information technology in delivering government information and
11 services to those groups;
- 12 e) Ensure that all ISSPs and ICT plans are updated annually and considered in their
13 budget preparation activities;
- 14 f) Agencies shall regularly undertake cost compliance analysis, time and motion
15 studies, undergo evaluation and improvement of their transaction systems and
16 procedures and reengineer the same if deemed necessary to reduce bureaucratic
17 red tape and process time;
- 18 g) Support the development of a digital competency framework in order to undertake
19 a competency assessment of personnel and provide them with appropriate learning
20 and development programs to strengthen their digital competency; and
- 21 h) Be accountable in the implementation of the ISSP or ICT Plan:

22 *Provided, however,* That for purposes of efficiency and avoidance of redundancy, government
23 agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, with existing: (a) standards for all ICT infrastructures,
24 systems, equipment, designs, and all other technology; (b) protocols for cybersecurity, resiliency
25 and data privacy and confidentiality; (c) effective mechanism for communicating promptly and
26 effectively all information technology standards within their agency; and (d) equipment, systems,
27 programs and infrastructures, that substantially comply with the minimum requirements indicated
28 in the relevant provisions of this Act, as well as those that already have existing government
29 positions, such as Chief Information Officer, within their respective offices whose qualifications are
30 aligned with the requirements under this Act, shall be allowed to maintain those existing
31 standards, protocols, mechanisms, equipment, systems, programs, infrastructures and positions,
32 and shall already be deemed compliant with the provisions hereof.

33 **SEC. 6. *Role of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.*** – The
34 DICT shall be the primary implementing body and principal administrator of this Act. In

1 accordance with applicable laws and rules, and subject to limitations provided by the Constitution, the
2 DICT shall ensure that all ICT projects in the Philippines shall be done in accordance with the
3 National ICT Development Agenda and E-Government Master Plan, as provided under Republic
4 Act No. 10844 otherwise known as the “Department of Information and Communications
5 Technology Act of 2015”. For this purpose, the DICT shall establish measures to implement
6 policies under this Act and ensure that all ICT projects in the Philippines, whether national or local
7 are harmonized with the overall ICT plans and in compliance with applicable standards.
8 Accordingly, the DICT shall:

- 9 a) Adopt a national policy and process that promotes innovations, supports start-ups,
10 and facilitate the entry and adoption of technologies consistent with the goals of
11 this Act;
- 12 b) Mandate support and supervise the government agencies in ensuring the quality,
13 security, and reliability of their respective ICT infrastructure and services in
14 accordance with international or industrial standards, specifications, and best
15 practices, and direct the interconnection or interoperability of ICT infrastructure,
16 systems, and facilities when necessary to achieve the goals of this Act;
- 17 c) Coordinate and/or collaborate with the private sector and enter into partnerships
18 and joint ventures in accordance with the goals of this Act;
- 19 d) Mandate and supervise the adoption of policies and processes to ensure the
20 implementation of this Act, including the adoption of a Roadmap to provide a
21 strategic and phased whole-of-government transformation to e-
22 Government, with clear and identified milestones, and which explicitly
23 defines the roles and responsibilities of covered government agencies,
24 offices, and instrumentalities;
- 25 e) Regulate and supervise the operations of ICT infrastructure, systems, and facilities,
26 and in the exercise of such functions, in accordance with applicable laws and rules;
- 27 f) Mandate government agencies, offices and instrumentalities to comply with the
28 minimum qualification and competency standards of ICT positions in the
29 government and require government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, to
30 regularly report the status of compliance thereto; and
- 31 g) Engage technical and standards organizations and consult industry experts on
32 matters requiring engineering inputs, enterprise architecture and other highly
33 specialized concerns.
- 34 h) Where applicable, recognize the administrative autonomy provided by the

1 Constitution for independent government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities
2 in the implementation and enforcement of the foregoing; and

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

21 **SEC. 7. *The E-Governance Unified Project Management Office.*** – Within one year from the
22 effectivity of this Act, the DICT shall establish a government-wide E-Governance Unified Project
23 Management Office (E-Gov-UPMO), which shall cater to and address the portfolio, program, and
24 project management needs of government agencies, with the end goal of ensuring that ICT
25 projects across the government are managed with efficiency and agility, following international
26 best practices and standards.

27 The DICT shall provide guidelines on the operation of the E-Gov-UPMO and the
28 qualifications of personnel under the E-Gov-UPMO, who shall, at the minimum obtain
29 internationally-recognized certifications and a required number of units on Project Management,
30 Program Management, IT Service Management, the Enterprise Architecture, Information Security,
31 Data Privacy, Risk Management, and other similar fields or specializations. For this purpose, the
32 ICT Academy created under this Act, shall ensure that courses, multimodal training, and
33 certifications to develop this human resource are regularly offered.

1 achieve digital transformation in the bureaucracy. Supplemental to this, an integrated framework
2 shall be developed to provide the government enterprise architecture and operationalize the
3 blueprint through programs and projects relating to e-government, in order to fully realize the
4 vision, goals and objectives of the Master Plan. The EGMP and the accompanying integrated
5 framework shall be reviewed and updated every three (3) years or earlier as the need arises, in
6 anticipation of disruptions, emergencies, crises, and new and emerging technologies.

7 In order to effectively implement E-Governance across the government, a whole-of-
8 government approach shall be adopted for the formulation and promotion of EGMP. This
9 approach shall facilitate engagement primarily with the government agencies, instrumentalities,
10 GOCCs, LGUs, Regional Development Councils, ICT Councils, technical and standards
11 organizations and other relevant stakeholders towards ensuring the full and effective
12 implementation of the country's E-Governance Agenda. All E-Government Programs identified
13 herein and, in the future, as well as in the ISSP of each government agency, instrumentality, and
14 GOCCs shall be subject to mandatory review and monitoring by the DICT in order to be aligned
15 with the EGMP and its accompanying integrated framework.

16 **SEC. 11. E-Government Programs.** – The DICT shall develop the following programs and
17 systems that will be regularly updated in consultation with the stakeholders and ensure that such
18 programs and systems are compliant with the standards imposed by relevant laws, rules, and
19 regulations relating to data privacy and security, including among others and not limited to
20 Republic Act No. 10173:

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

28 b) **Records and Knowledge Management Information System.** – A records and knowledge
29 management information system shall be designed to systematically and efficiently manage
30 government documents, records and knowledge products and services. This includes the
31 digitization of paper-based documents, records and knowledge products and services, as well as
32 the re-engineering and digitalization of paper-based workflows, from creation, dissemination,
33 processing, analysis, tracking, storing, verification and authentication, and archiving or disposal,
34 while adhering to existing policies, laws and internationally-recognized standards and best

1 practices.

2 A repository and corresponding Secure Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) shall be
3 created for the common data sets, which include pricing data, demographic data, geospatial data,
4 in order to improve publication, sharing and utilization of data across the government. The DICT
5 shall ensure that such repository shall be in compliance with applicable data privacy laws and
6 information security standards, in coordination with the NPC. The DICT shall also establish a
7 government data storage and interoperability platform or its equivalent to store all information
8 and services that are currently housed in the government data center;

9 c) ***Integrated Government Network.*** – An integrated, dedicated, interconnected, interoperable,
10 secure and resilient government network, to be known as the “Integrated Government Network”
11 (IGN) shall be established to act as the primary means for the sharing and communication of
12 resources, information, and data through digital and electronic platforms across all agencies of the
13 government, covering all branches, agencies, instrumentalities, and offices of the national and local
14 government, including government-owned and controlled corporations.

15 Such network shall also act as the government’s primary and focal information management
16 tool and communications network and the data traffic that will be coursed by the government
17 agencies and key stakeholders through this network will be exchanged through a designated
18 Government Internet Protocol Exchange (G/IPX) facility. Interconnectivity and interoperability
19 measures shall be established and maintained between all existing internal networks and the IGN.
20 This program shall also cover the acquisition and management of internet resources of the
21 government, such as internet protocol (IP) addresses, and domain names, among others;

22 d) ***Integrated Local Government Unit (ILGU) System.*** – In compliance with the immediately
23 preceding paragraph, LGUs shall establish their own portal or utilize the ILGU developed by the
24 DICT, its equivalent programs and systems thereof: *Provided*, That LGUs that are unable to
25 establish their own system within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act are mandated to
26 utilize the ILGU or equivalent programs and systems: *Provided, further*, That LGUs establishing
27 their own portal or those with existing portals shall immediately be connected by the DICT to the
28 IGN, pursuant to Section 11, subparagraph (c) of this Act: *Provided, finally*, That the ILGU software
29 or equivalent including its necessary infrastructure shall likewise be provided by the DICT for the
30 effective use of the ILGU to the unserved and underserved municipalities;

31 e) ***Government Digital Payment Systems for Collection and Disbursement.*** – An internet-
32 based electronic payment facility and gateway that will enable citizens and businesses to remit and
33 receive payments electronically or from government agencies shall be created. It shall render

1 services through various delivery channels, which include debit instructions (ATM accounts),
2 credit instructions (credit cards) and mobile wallets (mobile application/SMS). For this purpose, the
3 government may, in accordance with applicable laws and rules, engage the services of and
4 interconnect with public and private payment systems and facilities, among others, consistent with
5 the National Retail Payment System Framework of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP).

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

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

22 All other government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, including LGUs which
23 provide frontline services, as defined under Republic Act No. 9485, or the “Anti-Red Tape Act of
24 2007” as amended by Republic Act No. 11032, shall file an application for integration with the
25 DICT. All agencies, offices and instrumentalities that will be integrated shall establish and
26 maintain measures to ensure that such services are accessible and capable of delivery to the public
27 through the platform;

28 g) *Online Public Service Portal.* – Complementing the Citizen Frontline Delivery Services
29 Platform, an Online Public Service Portal shall be made accessible, through digital platforms, such
30 as the internet and other information and communications technologies, to citizens of the
31 Philippines, foreign nationals who have been lawfully admitted in the country, and businesses
32 organized and existing or operating under the laws and rules of the Philippines for purposes
33 consistent with the efficient delivery of public services. The Online Public Service Portal shall serve

1 as a helpdesk where citizens can request for information and assistance on government frontline
2 services, service procedures, and report commendations, appreciation, complaints, and feedback.

3 For the purposes of interoperability, interconnection and harmonization, all existing systems
4 or mechanisms, such as 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center, government social media channels,
5 established and/or maintained by agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, and LGUs shall be
6 integrated to Online Public Service Portal. Likewise, the Online Public Service Portal shall be fully
7 integrated with the integrated government network and Records and Knowledge Management
8 Information System for real time updating of data and information.

9 To ensure that the public is served efficiently and expeditiously in accordance with the
10 objectives of this Act, all national government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities, GOCCs,
11 government financial institutions, as well as the LGUs, are hereby mandated to cooperate and
12 coordinate with the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) and each other to ensure prompt action
13 on the concerns received through the Online Public Service Portal and associated communication
14 channels.

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

19 h) *Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS)*. – To ensure fiscal
20 discipline, fund allocation efficiency and operational efficiency in the delivery of public services,
21 an IFMIS shall be jointly developed by the DBM, Department of Finance (DOF), Commission on
22 Audit (COA), and DICT. This shall harmonize all existing financial systems in the government to
23 enable real-time, online accounting, monitoring, and control of obligations and disbursements
24 and directly link these to cash management for a more effective financial control and
25 accountability. This shall facilitate the generation and monitoring of vital information on all
26 aspects of government financial transaction to support timely and informed decisions across the
27 bureaucracy.

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

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

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

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

- 26 1. Authentication to prevent unauthorized disclosure of information;
- 27 2. Confidentiality to ensure that a message shall remain unmodified during transmission;
- 28 3. Integrity to validate that the senders are exactly who they say they are; and
- 29 4. Non-repudiation to ensure non-deniability of actions by any party.

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

1 cybersecurity standards.

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

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

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

18 **SEC. 16. *National E-Government Index and E-Government Maturity Survey.*** – The DICT
19 shall, in coordination with other government agencies, establish a national E-Government
20 Development Index which provides globally competitive E-Government indicators, definitions
21 and statistical standards. A manual for measuring e-government indicators shall be also
22 developed to institutionalize the framework of measurement.

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

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

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

1 CHAPTER IV

2 THE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES AND E-BULLETIN BOARDS

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

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

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

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

- 22 a) It shall include direct and easily identifiable links to: (i) description of the mission,
23 statutory authority, and the organizational structure of the agency; and (ii)
24 commonly asked questions and the corresponding answers, and other common
25 matters of public concern;
- 26 b) It shall include direct and easily identifiable links to the relevant and applicable
27 portals for the delivery of public services;
- 28 c) It shall include the ability to provide access to public information via an API;
- 29 d) It shall include an up-to-date government directory containing the contact
30 information, such as emails, telephone numbers, and the likes, of the offices and
31 officials within an agency; and
- 32 e) It shall be compliant with the Philippine Web Accessibility policy, or any relevant
33 and updated issuance from the DICT.

1 CHAPTER V

2 SECURITY AND PRIVACY

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

8 Access to and use of the resources, information, and data on the government information
9 systems shall be limited to the government and its duly authorized officers and agents, in
10 accordance with all relevant laws, rules, and regulations on data and information privacy and the
11 pertinent rules on confidentiality of government information: *Provided,* That the data used by all
12 concerned government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities with access to information systems
13 and used data stored therein shall be destroyed or disposed of in accordance with acceptable
14 standards and guidelines existing under the law for disposal of data upon fulfillment of its
15 purpose.

16 Any person who shall knowingly commit an act which results to the compromise of the
17 security and integrity of the government information systems and all networks interconnected to
18 and interoperable with it to the detriment of the government and the public shall incur criminal
19 liability in accordance with the provisions of applicable and relevant penal laws.

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

- 22 a) Providing information security protections commensurate with the risk and
23 magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure,
24 disruption, modification, or destruction of information collected or maintained by
25 or on behalf of the agency; and information systems used or operated by an agency
26 or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency;
- 27 b) Determining the levels of information security appropriate to protect such
28 information and information systems and implementing the same in coordination
29 with the DICT;
- 30 c) Periodically testing and evaluating information security controls and techniques to
31 ensure that they are effectively implemented;
- 32 d) Complying with the requirements of pertinent laws on information security and
33 privacy, related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines, including
34 information security standards promulgated by the DICT and information security

1 standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with
2 law and as directed by the President of the Philippines;

3 e) Ensuring that information security management processes are integrated with
4 agency strategic and operational planning processes; and

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

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

12 CHAPTER VI

13 PARTICIPATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

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

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

21 CHAPTER VII

22 THE PHILIPPINE INFOSTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

23 **SEC. 25. *The Philippine Infostructure Management Corporation.*** – For the purpose of
24 ensuring proper and efficient operations and management of the ICT assets of the government and
25 faster and effective implementation of programs, activities, and projects related to connectivity,
26 data center, cloud services which include: infrastructure, platform, software and development of
27 effective solutions delivery and enterprise architecture for digitalization initiatives of government
28 instrumentalities, there is hereby established a body corporate to be known as the Philippine
29 Infostructure Management Corporation (PIMC), which shall be government-owned and controlled
30 corporation attached to the DICT. The legal existence of the PIMC shall be for a period of fifty (50)
31 years from the date of the approval of this Act. The PIMC shall be subject to the rules and
32 regulations as the DICT may impose from time to time.

33 **SEC. 26. *Powers and Functions.*** – To carry out its main purpose and in accordance with
34 applicable laws and rules, and in addition to the powers granted to a corporation under Republic

1 Act No. 11232 or the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines, the PIMC shall have the
2 following functions and powers:

- 3 a) Implement infrastructure programs such as the National Broadband Plan, Free
4 WiFi for All, and expansion of the National Government Data Centers and
5 Government Cloud;
- 6 b) Manage ICT assets of the government including the NGAs, LGUs, the Courts and
7 the Congress;
- 8 c) Prescribe, repeal, and alter its own by-laws;
- 9 d) Determine its operating policies, and issue such rules and regulations as may be
10 necessary to achieve its main purpose;
- 11 e) Adopt, alter and use a corporate seal;
- 12 f) Acquire and own real and personal property, and sell, mortgage or otherwise
13 dispose of the same;
- 14 g) Sue and be sued, enter into contracts, and borrow money from both local and
15 foreign sources: *Provided*, That such loans shall be incurred only upon favorable
16 recommendation of the Board and approval by the President of the Philippines;
- 17 h) Create an enabling environment to foster innovation to include the promotion and
18 support for emerging technologies;
- 19 i) Hold, own, purchase, acquire, sell or otherwise invest, or reinvest in stocks, bonds
20 or other securities capable of giving the PIMC a reasonably assured income
21 sufficient to support its activities; and
- 22 j) Provide ICT counseling and technical services to government and private entities:
23 *Provided*, That for this purpose, the PIMC may contract the services of private
24 consultants.

25 **SEC. 27. Board of Directors.** – The corporate powers and functions of the PIMC shall be
26 vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors that shall be composed of the following:

- 27 a) The Secretary of the DICT as Ex-Officio Chairperson;
- 28 b) The Secretary of the DBM, or his duly designated Undersecretary, as ex officio Vice-
29 Chairperson;
- 30 c) The Chief Executive Officer; and
- 31 d) As Members:
 - 32 1. The Commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), or
33 duly designated Deputy Commissioner;
 - 34 2. The Commissioner of the NPC or duly designated Deputy Privacy

1 Commissioner;

2 3. The Director-General of ARTA or duly designated Deputy Director-General;

3 4. One (1) representative from the information technology and business process
4 outsourcing industry;

5 5. One (1) representative from the telecommunications industry; and

6 6. One (1) representative from the LGUs who must not be an elective official.

7 The representatives from the private sector and the LGUs shall be appointed by the
8 President of the Philippines from the shortlist submitted by the Governance Commission for
9 GOCCs (GCG): *Provided*, That the representatives from the private sector shall be appointed only
10 upon a favorable recommendation from the DICT, and the representative from the LGUs shall be
11 appointed only upon a favorable recommendation from the DICT and the Department of the
12 Interior and Local Government. The representatives from the private sectors and LGUs shall be
13 subject to the Fit and Proper Rule issued by the GCG. The representatives from the private sector
14 shall be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, possesses demonstrated administrative skills and
15 ability in the field of ICT, and with a minimum of ten (10) years of professional experience in the
16 field of ICT.

17 The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Corporation, who will be designated by the
18 President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Board, shall execute and administer
19 the policies and resolutions approved by the Board of Directors, prepare its agenda, and direct and
20 supervise the operations and management of the Corporation. He shall have direct control and
21 supervision of the business of the PIMC in all matters which are not prohibited under this Act or
22 by the by-laws specifically reserved to be done by the Board of Directors. The CEO shall, subject to
23 the approval of the Board, in cases of approval of appointments to managerial positions and
24 above, and the confirmation of the Board of Appointments below managerial level, appoint the
25 personnel of the Corporation, remove, suspend or otherwise discipline them for cause, and
26 prescribe their duties and qualifications, in accordance with existing civil service laws, rules and
27 regulations, to ensure that only competent and qualified personnel may be employed.

28 All members of the Board shall serve for a term of seven years.

29 The Chairperson and the members of the Board shall act as the heads of such operating
30 departments as may be set up by the Board. The Chairperson shall have authority, exercisable at
31 his discretion, to determine from time to time the organizational divisions to be headed by each
32 member serving full time and to make the corresponding shifts in designations pursuant thereto.
33 The members of the Board, except for the ex-officio members, shall receive per diem every meeting
34 in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

1 The Chairperson of the Board shall be assisted by an Executive Vice- Chairperson and one
2 or more Vice-Chairpersons who shall be chosen and may be removed by the Board of Directors.
3 The salaries of the Vice- Chairpersons shall be fixed by the Board of Directors with the approval of
4 the President of the Philippines, and in accordance with the Compensation and Position
5 Classification System by the GCG.

6 **SEC. 28. *Authorized Capital Stock.*** – The PIMC shall have an authorized capital stock of
7 Five billion pesos (₱5,000,000,000.00), divided into five million (5,000,000) shares of common stock
8 with a par value of One thousand Philippine pesos (₱1,000.00) per share, which shall be fully
9 subscribed by the government.

10 The funding for the purpose shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act
11 until the authorized capital as herein required has been fully paid within a period of five (5) years.

12 **SEC. 29. *Personnel; Cost of Administration.*** – The Board of Directors shall provide for an
13 organization and staff of officers and employees necessary to carry out the functions of the PIMC,
14 fix their compensation, and appoint and remove such officers and employees for cause. The PIMC
15 officers and employees shall be subject to the rules and regulations issued by the CSC and in
16 accordance with Republic Act No. 10149 or the “GOCC Governance Act of 2011”. The
17 wages must be comparable with the prevailing rate in the private sector. The Board of
18 Directors shall recommend to the CSC rules and regulations for the recruitment, appointment,
19 compensation, administration, conduct, promotion and removal of all PIMC officers and
20 employees under a strict merit system and prepare and conduct examinations under the
21 supervision of said Commission.

22 To fully implement the provisions of this Act capacitating government agencies in terms of
23 ICT manpower, a new class of ICT position shall be created subject to evaluation and approval of
24 the DBM and the corresponding qualification standards according to merit, skills, and experience
25 subject to CSC evaluation and approval, or in lieu thereof, the equivalency exam administered by
26 the DICT as authorized under Presidential Decree 1408 conferring civil service eligibility on
27 electronic data processing (EDP) specialist.

28 The administrative expenses of the PIMC during any single fiscal year shall not in any case
29 exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of its total assets.

30 **SEC. 30. *Legal Counsel.*** – The Government Corporate Counsel (GCC) shall be the *ex-officio*
31 legal adviser of the PIMC. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the PIMC shall
32 have its own Legal Department, the chief and members of which shall be appointed by the Board
33 of Directors. The composition, budget and operating expenses of the Office of the Legal Counsel
34 and the salaries and traveling expenses of its officers and employees shall be fixed by the Board of

- 1 i) To promote immersion of learners to industry partners whether it be private or in the
2 public sector;
- 3 j) To establish and implement a scholarship system offered to qualified individuals in
4 training and programs under the Academy or other activities approved by the DICT
5 Secretary;
- 6 k) To facilitate the screening, admission process and monitoring of all admitted scholars;
- 7 l) To spearhead academic research and development related to ICT;
- 8 m) To regularly assess the state of the country in terms of comparative ICT skills and
9 performance and suggest responsive policies to address concerns; and
- 10 n) In collaboration with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education
11 (CHED), Technical and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), SUCs, and local
12 universities and colleges, develop curricula and courses for learners and students on ICT,
13 to upskill the ICT proficiency and competency of individuals.

14 **SEC. 34. *Satellite Units.*** – The Academy may establish satellite units in the existing DICT
15 offices in particular regions, provinces or municipalities in the country. To ensure broader access
16 to quality ICT trainings and skills development and to further enhance the capability of the
17 Academy to attain its purposes, additional satellite units may be established upon determination
18 of the DICT and in coordination with the CHED and the TESDA.

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

22 The DICT, through the Academy, shall promulgate an admission process that is equitable
23 and inclusive to ensure that citizens shall have equal access to ICT education and that the broadest
24 base of the citizenry shall have ICT education.

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

28 Donations collected shall be held in a fund, to be administered in trust by a Committee
29 created by the DICT for such purpose. The fund shall in no case be impaired. Donations received
30 shall be used only for the purposes for which they were donated, subject to accounting and
31 auditing rules and regulations.

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

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

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

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

9 CHAPTER IX

10 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

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

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

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

21 **SEC. 39. *Regular Status Reports.*** – All agencies, offices, and instrumentalities of the
22 national and local governments covered under this Act shall submit to the President, both Houses
23 of Congress, and DICT, an annual report on the status of implementation of this Act. These reports
24 shall likewise be made publicly available on and through the e-portals.

25 The status report shall include the following:

- 26 a) The status of the implementation of electronic government initiatives in accordance to its
27 approved ICT Plan;
- 28 b) Compliance by the agency with this Act; and
- 29 c) Performance in delivering programs through the e-government to constituencies.

30 **SEC. 40. *E-Government Interoperability Fund.*** – An E-Government Interoperability Fund (EIF)
31 is hereby created as a special account in the general fund to be managed by the DICT for the
32 implementation of the EGMP, E-Government Programs and Government Websites, including
33 ILGU system, among others, which will be sourced from the Spectrum User's Fees collected by the
34 NTC, subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

1 **SEC. 41. *Appropriations and Funding.*** – The amount necessary to cover the initial
2 implementation of this Act in the national government level shall be charged against the current
3 year’s appropriations of the DICT, NTC, NPC, and such other national government agency, office,
4 or instrumentality concerned. Thereafter, such sums as maybe needed for its continued
5 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and in the corporate
6 operating budget of the PIMC.

7 The DICT is also authorized to receive grants and donations for the implementation of this
8 Act, subject to the existing budgeting, accounting, auditing, and other pertinent laws, rules,
9 regulations, and guidelines.

10 The amounts necessary to implement this Act in the local government level shall be
11 charged against the funds of the local government unit concerned.

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

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

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

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

32 The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Science and Technology and the Chairperson of
33 the House of Representatives Committee on Information and Communications Technology shall
34 act as co-Chairpersons of the JCOCEG. The minority members nominated by both the Senate and

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

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

9 **SEC. 45. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared invalid
10 or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of
11 this Act.

12 **SEC. 46. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction and other
13 presidential issuances which are incompatible or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
14 hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

15 **SEC. 47. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
16 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,