

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7604



Introduced by HONORABLE WES GATCHALIAN

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE IN EVERY
MUNICIPALITY, CITY, AND PROVINCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

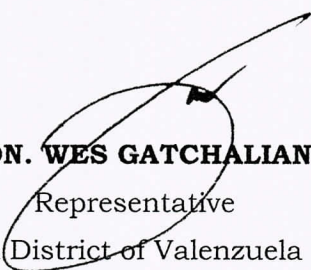
The Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) has altered how societies work as we know it. In order to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the Philippines, the administration initially implemented an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). While this measure was effective in slowing down the virus, it abruptly stopped or slowed down most of the operations in every sector – causing disruption in education, mass unemployment, closure of businesses, and inability to deliver some basic social services, *inter alia*. We could no longer afford to do this again.

Until a vaccine is created and proven viable to cure COVID-19, everyone must adjust to a new normal, with social distancing at its core. For government agencies and instrumentalities, this means shifting to online platforms. Hence, the establishment of Information Technology (IT) offices in municipalities, cities, and provinces is essential in order to assure the efficacy of government services during the new normal.

It is acknowledged that some Local Government Units (LGU) already established far more advanced systems of IT in their locality, which expectedly yielded positive results. A fully automated public service transaction for all LGUs is compatible with the implementation of social distancing, among other benefits that transcends the

pandemic (i.e. saves time, transportation cost, limits bureaucratic red tape, and curbs corruption).

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. WES GATCHALIAN

Representative

1st District of Valenzuela

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy* - It is hereby declared to be the
2 policy of the State to recognize the vital role of communication and
3 information in nation-building. Towards this end, the automation of
4 information and transactions in all municipality, city and province shall
5 be organized and made accessible through a database management
6 system to increase productivity and efficiency in public service.

7
8 **SEC. 2.** *Information Technology Office* - There shall be established an
9 Information Technology Office in every municipality, city and province throughout
10 the country which shall have the following objectives:

- 11 a. To provide for the automation and system of electronic data
12 storage for all information and transactions relating to local
13 business processes and other matters of public concern;
14 b. To provide on-time accomplishment reports of all departments,
15 local advisories and participatory initiatives for local programs;
16 c. To expedite the processing of all local transactions;
17 d. To provide for a technology that will offer online payments for
18 all local taxes, fees and other assessments;
19 e. To be equipped with accurate computation of payments;
20 f. To provide for transparency and the effective monitoring of all
21 information and transactions within the locality concerned;

- 1 g. To provide for consistent accessibility of organized information
2 to the general public as well as provide a venue for
3 communication with constituents;
4 h. To provide a productive tool to increase efficiency in local
5 government service;
6 i. To equip local government units with a constantly evolving
7 technology that will be at par with global standards.
8

9 **SEC. 3. Budget and Implementation** - The amount necessary
10 for the operation and maintenance of the Information Technology Office
11 in every municipality, city and province shall be charged to the local
12 funds. The LGU concerned, shall, immediately include in its annual
13 budget the amount to be defrayed, and, consistent with its allowable
14 budgetary allocation may seek the technological support of the
15 Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in the establishment of
16 the IT Office.
17

18 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this
19 Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity
20 and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.
21

22 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, rules and regulations,
23 other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act,
24 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
25

26 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
27 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* and/or any newspaper of general
28 circulation.
29

30 Approved,