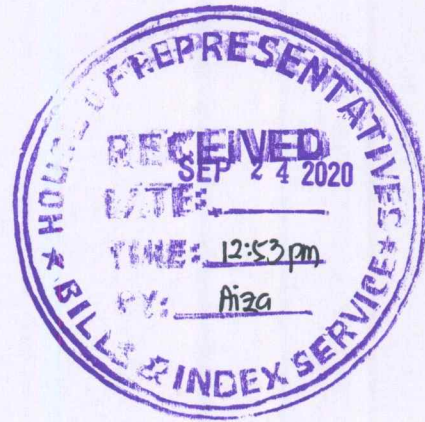


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

7747
House Bill No. _____



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

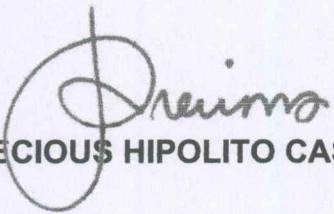
Upon the lifting of strict community quarantine restrictions, government offices have opened their doors once again to the public. Obligations to the government such as payment of taxes, procurement of necessary permits, etc., are vital for the maintenance of public order. Even though the virus is still there, life must go on.

However, it cannot be denied that traveling to a public office to make an official transaction carries the risk of getting infected with COVID-19. Even though minimum health standards are always in place, it is safe to assume now that going out of the house is always a risk. Cramped offices with little to no room for physical distancing elevates this risk. Further, a lot of public offices are closed, air-conditioned spaces which lack natural ventilation. Even though minimum health standards are generally complied with, the reality is asymptomatic carriers cannot be detected with simple temperature checks.

Thus, it is the intent of this bill to reduce face-to-face government transactions by mandating government agencies to offer an alternative means for the public to pay their official dues. Payments made through this system will be more efficient and less time-consuming which will encourage Filipinos to pay their obligations to the government diligently. Also, since face-to-face transactions will be reduced, there will be less opportunities for graft and corruption.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) already offers a government online payment system called "PhPay and ProgRESIBO". However, it seems that the installation of PhPay and ProgRESIBO is merely directory, and not mandatory as there is a need for a government office to signify its intent to avail of this service. This bill seeks to institutionalize the use of PhPay and ProgRESIBO system in all government offices.

The immediate passage of this bill is most urgently sought.


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7747

Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

AN ACT
MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEMS IN ALL PUBLIC
OFFICES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be referred to as the “PhPay and ProgRESIBO Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. Towards this end, the State shall implement policies which shall encourage its citizens to duly pay their obligations to the government by offering convenient and practical ways to do so.

SEC. 3. *Development of a Government Electronic Payment System.* – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall develop an electronic payment system which shall be called “PhPay and ProgRESIBO”, readily available for use of all government agencies and instrumentalities. The payment system shall be accessible to all Filipinos and may be used by them for all official transactions made with the government.

SEC. 4. *Security Assurance.* – The DICT shall assure that PhPay and ProgRESIBO is safe and secure. The payment system shall include, but is not limited to, the use of debit cards, credit cards, online banking and mobile wallets. Partnerships with reputable banks and financial institutions regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is encouraged.

SEC. 5. *Mandatory Issuance of Electronic Receipts.* – Every payment made using the electronic payment system shall be issued with a corresponding electronic receipt which shall be sent to the customer via electronic mail.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,