

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

Third Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 9784



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

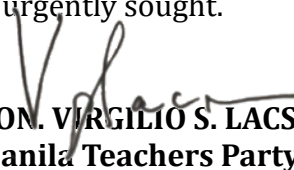
The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many industries, including government offices, to find new and safe ways to deal with the public. Many innovations have been introduced in a span of one year to make transactions safer for the people.

As more establishments have opened their doors once again, the threat continues to be present and ever-growing until such time we have found a permanent solution to end the deadly virus. In the meantime, we must continuously find means to lessen the risk of transmission.

The duty of the people to pay taxes, fees, and other charges to the Government and its instrumentalities remain. To do this, people would go to government offices, which are often cramped and improperly-ventilated. Health protocols are admittedly not followed at all times, because of restrictions in physical space and facilities. The transmission of the virus becomes highly likely in these situations. It therefore becomes incumbent upon the State to afford them the protection that they need while they fulfill this duty.

One proven measure to lessen the risks and curb the spread of COVID-19 is by limiting face-to-face transactions. 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 dues, such as online payment, bank transfer, e-money, and other widely available payment channels.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is most urgently sought.


HON. VIRGILIO S. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list

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AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF ALTERNATIVE 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 "Alternative Payment Systems 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 safe, convenient and practical ways to do so.

SEC. 3. *Development of the Alternative Payment System.* - The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall develop an electronic payment system which shall be readily available for use by 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 the Alternative Payment System is safe and secure. The payment system shall include, but is not limited to, the use of debit cards, credit cards, online banking, e-money, and mobile wallets. Partnerships with reputable banks and financial institutions regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is encouraged.

Any data collected, processed, stored in connection with the implementation and execution of the provisions of this Act shall enjoy the protection provided under the Republic Act 10173 or the Data Privacy Act.

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,