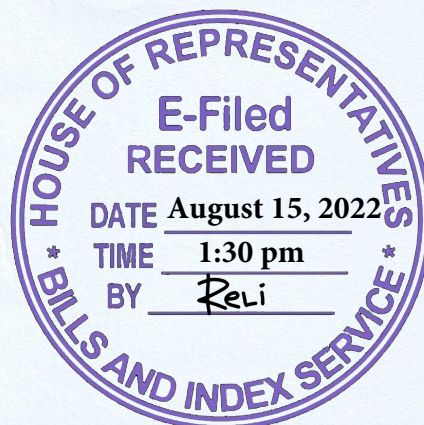


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3594



Introduced by Honorable Rex Gatchalian

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING AN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGY OFFICER IN ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, PROVIDING
FOR HIS/HER POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered how societies operate. To curb the spread of the virus, the administration placed the entire country under quarantine. While this solution effectively slowed down the virus, it abruptly stopped or slowed down most of the operations in every sector – disrupting education, mass unemployment, closure of businesses, and inability to deliver basic services, among others.

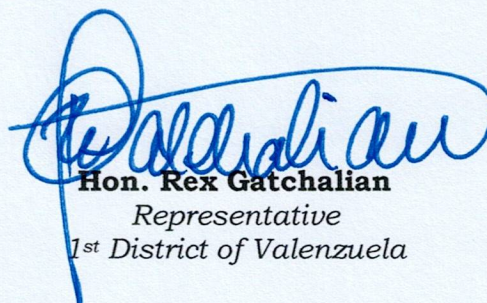
Before a COVID-19 vaccine was created, everyone adjusted to a new normal, with social distancing at its core. For local government units (LGUs), this means shifting to online platforms. Two (2) years later, despite the evident effectiveness of vaccines and the reopening of affected sectors, LGUs kept their online platforms and even improved them because such has proven to increase efficiency and productivity in delivering basic services. Furthermore, it yields benefits that transcend any health emergencies, calamities, or other similar events – such as, but not limited to, time efficiency for government employees and citizens. It also reduces transportation costs, bureaucratic red tape, and corruption.

Therefore, to further usher the government into the digital age and reap its advantages, this bill seeks to institutionalize a Local Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Officer, and the corresponding Local ICT Office,

in all LGUs in the Local Government Code. With this, the LGUs, through uniform minimum standards, would be at the forefront of digital innovation in their respective localities. The local ICT officer shall provide policy direction for the automation and system of electronic data storage for all information and transactions relating to local business processes and other matters of public concern. This includes:

- (1) Providing of on-time accomplishment reports of all departments, local advisories, and participatory initiatives for local programs;
- (2) Expediting the processing of all local transactions;
- (3) Providing a technology that will offer online payments for all local taxes, fees, and other assessments;
- (4) Providing an accurate system for the computation of payments;
- (5) Providing transparency and the effective monitoring of all information and transactions within the locality concerned;
- (6) Providing consistent accessibility of organized information to the general public as well as providing a venue for communication with constituents;
- (7) Providing a productive tool to increase efficiency in local government service; and
- (8) Equipping local government units with a constantly evolving technology that will be at par with global standards.

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



Hon. Rex 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.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Local Information
2 and Communications Technology Officer Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2.** *Local Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Officer.* – A
5 Local ICT Officer shall be institutionalized in every province, city, and municipality
6 in Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of
7 1991. Accordingly, a new Article, to be known as Article XXI, shall be incorporated
8 into Title V, Book III of the same Code, to read as follows:
9

10 **“ARTICLE XXI**

11 **“The Information and Communications Technology Officer”**
12

13 **SEC. 490-A.** *Qualifications, Powers, and Duties.* – (a) No person
14 shall be appointed as the information and communications technology
15 (ICT) officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the
16 local government unit concerned, of good moral character, a holder of
17 a degree preferably in information technology, computer science,
18 information systems, computer engineering or any related degree from
19 a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible

1 or its equivalent. He/she must have experience in digitalization and
2 automation of information and transactions for at least three (3) years
3 in the case of the provincial or city ICT officer and at least one (1) year
4 in the case of the municipal ICT officer.

5
6 (b) The local ICT officer shall take charge of the office on ICT and
7 shall:

8 (1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the *sanggunian*,
9 and provide technical assistance and support to the governor or mayor,
10 as the case may be, in providing the automation and system of
11 electronic data storage for all information and transactions relating to
12 local business processes and other matters of public concern, which
13 includes but are not limited to the following:

14 (i) Providing on-time accomplishment reports of all
15 departments, local advisories, and participatory initiatives for
16 local programs;

17 (ii) Expediting the processing of all local transactions;

18 (iii) Providing a technology that will offer online payments
19 for all local taxes, fees, and other assessments;

20 (iv) Providing an accurate system for the computation of
21 payments;

22 (v) Providing transparency and the effective monitoring of
23 all information and transactions within the locality concerned;

24 (vi) Providing consistent accessibility of organized
25 information to the general public as well as providing a venue for
26 communication with constituents;

27 (vii) Providing a productive tool to increase efficiency in
28 local government service; and

29 (viii) Equipping local government units with a constantly
30 evolving technology that will be at par with global standards; and

31 (2) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties
32 and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

33
34 **SEC. 3.** *Existing Local ICT Officer and/or Office.* – Provinces, cities, and
35 municipalities which have existing ICT officers and/or offices akin to that mandated
36 in this Article shall continue to maintain such officers and/or offices and shall

1 incorporate the provisions of this Act to their existing mandate.

2
3 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part, section, or
4 provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions
5 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

6
7 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
8 proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which
9 are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
10 modified accordingly.

11
12 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
13 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,