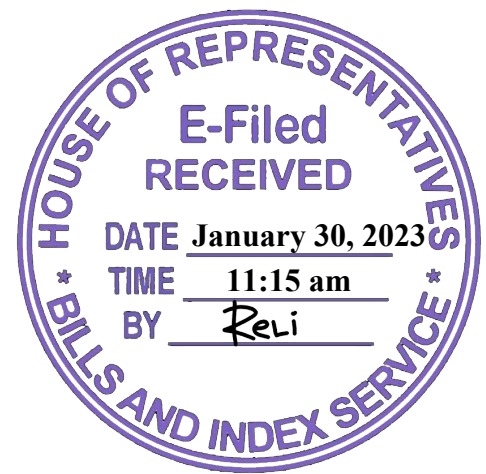


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 6957**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill, known as the "Right to Paper Billing Act," aims to strengthen consumer protection by mandating the issuance of paper billing statements by service providers. While we recognize the benefits of eliminating traditional paper billing statements, such as reducing environmental impact, lowering business costs, lessening the need for manpower, and improving cash flow by accelerating payments, many consumers may have difficulty accessing or understanding electronic billing statements, particularly for certain groups such as senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

For instance, senior citizens who are not technologically-advanced find it difficult to view their electronic billing statements online. Accessing electronic statements can also be a hassle to consumers who do not have stable internet and mobile connection.

This bill proposes that service providers be required to provide paper billing statements to all their subscribers. Nonetheless, this bill also allows for waiver at the option of the consumer upon written request to the service provider. This bill allows consumers to choose the billing format that works best for them, while still providing a safety net for those who may not have access to electronic billing options. This bill will ultimately help to ensure that all consumers have access to clear, accurate billing information.


VIRGILIO S. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 6957

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ISSUANCE OF PAPER BILLING STATEMENTS BY SERVICE
PROVIDERS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Right to Paper Billing Statement Act*".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen consumer protection by mandating the issuance of paper billing statements by their service providers.

SEC. 3. *Mandate.* - All persons providing goods and services shall be required to provide their customers with a physical copy of their billing statement.

SEC. 4. *Waiver.* - The mandate of this Act may be waived at the option of the consumer, provided that the consumer must make a written request to the service provider.

Service providers shall make this information readily available on their websites and social media platforms. They are also required to update their systems and train their customer service representatives on these new rules.

SEC. 5. *Penalties.* - Any person who willfully or knowingly violates the provisions of this Act, upon conviction thereof, shall be penalized with a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) for each count of violation.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DTI shall, in coordination with relevant agencies and upon consultation with stakeholders, issue within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

V. Lacson

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Placer', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.