

Republic of the Philippines
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **8824**



Introduced by: **Hon. Arnolfo 'Arnie' A. Teves, Jr.**

AN ACT MANDATING AND REQUIRING ALL POWER, TELECOMMUNICATION, CABLE, INTERNET, WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANIES IN METRO MANILA TO CONDUCT INSPECTION AND TO RECTIFY DANGLING AND SAGGING WIRES AND OTHER OUTSIDE PLANT FACILITIES NOT LIMITED TO POLES AND PIPES ENCROACHING THE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Various surveys around the world indicate that Metro Manila suffers from spotty record of poor urban planning. What started out as beautifully master-planned cities generations ago have ended up as cities characterized by congestion and traffic, little or poor access to mass transit, few open spaces, parks and public spaces, and many blighted and derelict sections.¹ Contributory to this are dangling wires of electric company and different cable service companies, and obstruction of meter of water concessionaires to the Road Right of Way, which pose real and potential threat to life and limb. Electric and cable wires that hang overhead have in the past caused electrocution and many remain as road hazards.

The unsightly dangling wires have also contributed to the "uglification" of Metro Manila. This ugly picture becomes the picture of the whole country as Metro Manila is the window to the Philippines, being the country's capital.

It is therefore imperative that electric power companies, telecommunication companies, cable companies, water and sewerage companies secure their outside plant facilities so much so that they meet globally acceptable standards in systematic wire installation, wire bundling, and standard outside plant facilities installation not limited to poles and pipes.

The approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought to eliminate road hazards and threats to the safety of the people.


ARNOLFO "ARNIE" A. TEVES, JR.

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OF WAY**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - Individuals and private groups, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall have the right to own, establish, and operate economic enterprises, subject to the duty of the State to promote distributive justice and intervene when the common good so demands.

SECTION 2. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Metro Manila Anti-Dangling Wire and Anti-Obstruction of Road Right of Way Act of 2022."

SECTION 3. Coverage. - This Act shall cover all power distribution companies, telecommunications companies, cable and internet providers, water and sewerage concessionaires operating within Metro Manila affording them road right of way.

These entities shall be collectively referred to as public utilities or utilities in this Act.

SECTION 4. Responsibilities of Public Utilities. - Public utilities shall:

- a. Fix and bundle up its sagging or dangling aerial utility line and utility posts.
- b. Remove all old and unused aerial utility line and utility posts.
- c. Relocate meters and/or sub meters.

For this purpose, these utilities are mandated to fix all their outside plant facilities including but not limited to Telecommunication Poles, Pole Hardwares, Transformers, Electrical telecom tables, communication tables, electric wires, poles, water pipes, water meters including sub-meters and sewer pipes which obstruct the right of way, dangling and sagging wires and those facilities which are outside the tension limits as well as any pole which fails to meet the required tillage.

d. Remove any or all cables or cable wire that has no label. All cable or cable wires must be properly labeled such that for every ten (10) meters of the cable there must be an intercalation of the company who owns it for easier monitoring. Any unmarked cables shall be removed.

e. Remove any or all outside plant facilities which encroaches the road right of way.

SECTION 5. *Measure of Performance.* - All utilities are hereby given five years within which to cover the 5,800 kilometers of roadways in Metro Manila to inspect, rectify and/or change their outside plant facilities. All utilities shall, in every year for five years, rectify at least 1200 kilometers of roadways in Metro Manila.

All roads completed or cleared of any obstruction or any outside plant facilities which were rectified shall be maintained in good order by the utilities and any wrong repeated will be added to the yearly target. For this purpose, the regulatory agencies shall monitor the performance of the utilities and shall send a report to the oversight committee every six months thereof.

Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the utilities shall submit their respective development or redevelopment plans for the next five years to fulfill the objective of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Role of the Local Government Unit.* - The LGU concerned shall, as far as practicable monitor any or all outside plant facilities of the utilities that encroached the road right of way and dangling or sagging aerial utility lines. The LGU shall then notify in writing of any such encroachment and dangling or sagging aerial utility lines to the concerned utilities for proper disposition furnishing such copy of notice to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Metro Manila Anti- Dangling Wire and Anti-Obstruction of Road Right of Way for monitoring purposes.

SECTION 7. *Penalties.* - All LGUs in Metro Manila through the City Engineering Office shall ensure that utilities shall comply with the provisions of this Act. They may withhold the approval of the permits of erring utilities.

In addition to the above provision, Utilities are not allowed to get new subscribers in and out of the country for their failure to comply to the provisions of this Act. Regulatory agencies shall not give any permit to erring utilities to transact with other companies or to get new subscriber.

SECTION 8. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* - There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Metro Manila Anti-Dangling Wire and Anti-Obstruction of Road Right of way to be co-chaired by the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Public Services and the House of Representatives Committee on Metro Manila Development.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The National Telecommunications Commission, Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Information Communications Technology and Metro Manila Development Authority shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to implement this Act to include globally acceptable standards of regulation of the utilities' Outside Plant Facilities, dangling and sagging wires within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of the Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen(15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.