

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 9387**



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Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**  
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STANDARD NUMERIC DATE FORMAT IN ALL  
OFFICIAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS IN THE COUNTRY**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Standardization is the process of establishing a framework to be observed and adopted by involved parties to promote regularity, uniformity, and compatibility. This bill seeks to standardize the written format of a date when represented in numerical characters, in the form of two-digit number representing the month of the year ("MM") followed by another two-digit number representing the day of the month ("DD"), and a four-digit number representing the year ("YYYY"). The digits representing the month, day and year may be separated by a hyphen or a forward slash. This format is the most common numerical format observed in the country.

This humble representation believes that providing a standard numerical date format will promote efficiency and accuracy in day-to-day transactions. It will also prevent misrepresentation, ambiguity, and confusion in written official and legal documents.

It is for the foregoing premises that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. Delos Santos", written over a horizontal line.

**ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS**  
*Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List*

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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 “Standard Date Format Act of 2023.”

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - The State shall promote efficiency and accuracy in official and legal transactions by providing a standard numerical date format to avoid ambiguity, confusion, and misrepresentation.

**SECTION 3. *Standard Date Format.*** - Dates written in numerical notation shall follow consist of the two-digit number representing the month (MM), followed by the two-digit number representing the day (DD) and the four-digit number representing the year (YYYY).

The standard date format may be written with each unit of time separated by a forward slash (MM/DD/YYYY) or a hyphen (MM-DD-YYYY).

**SECTION 4. *Scope.*** - This Act shall apply to all official and legal documents which require that dates are to be written in numerical notation.

**SECTION 5. *Separability.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

**SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portions thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,