

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
19TH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



House Bill No. **10648**

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE
MICHAEL L. ROMERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The **1987 Constitution** mandates the state to support the nation's **Cyber Defense** through appropriate technology, research and development, with adequate finance and machinery. Along with other related services.

Under Section 15 of **Republic Act 10844**, or the **DICT Act of 2015**, the department has formulated **the NCSP 2023-2028**, which outlines the country's policy direction and provides operational guidelines towards a trusted, secured, and resilient cyberspace for every Filipino.

Under EO 58, all concerned national government agencies and instrumentalities and local government units (**LGUs**) are directed to support and cooperate towards the successful implementation of the NCSP 2023-2028 while the DICT is ordered to adopt a system for the effective implementation, monitoring and review of the plan.

It added that the DICT, in cooperation with the private sector, shall provide technical assistance to other government agencies and offices relative to the implementation of the NCSP 2023-2028, as may be necessary.

The **DICT** is also directed to submit to the President a bi-annual report on the status and progress of the implementation of the NCSP 2023-2028 through the Office of the Executive Secretary and the National Cybersecurity Inter-Agency Committee (**NCIAC**).

This House bill seeks to guarantee the enhancement of our **cybersecurity** forces and policies.

Furthermore, this House bill seeks to ensure our evolving accessibility, available cybersecurity and counter measures at all times.

This house bill seeks to establish a comprehensive **National Cyber Defense Program**.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE **CYBER DEFENSE
PROGRAM**, TO REINFORCE POLICY DIRECTION,
PROVIDE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES TOWARDS A
TRUSTED, SECURED, AND RESILIENT INFORMATION
HUB, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

*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 "
CYBER DEFENSE ACT OF 2024".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. The state shall recognize
the importance of a trusted **cyber defense** force in ensuring the well-being of
its nation.

It shall hereby be a declared policy of the state to elevate our
cybersecurity capacity to preserve and protect its citizenry and cyberspace.

The state recognizes that an imminent upgrade and extensive
modernization is long overdue.

Furthermore, the state clearly identifies that the establishment of a comprehensive cybersecurity program shall vastly improve the efficiency of our nation`s cybersecurity capabilities.

the state shall hereby provide the necessary support to fund and establish the immediate development of our cybersecurity forces.

The state shall spearhead acquisition of modern and more powerful equipment's, machinery and technology to ensure the preservation and safety of its people and cyberspace. Thus to ensure the well-being of the entire nation.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE CYBER DEFENSE PROGRAM — There shall hereby be established a comprehensive cyber defense program.

Existing structures, facilities and equipment's that would meet the standard requirements could be upgraded to effectively serve and be designated as such in compliance with rules and regulations set by the **Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), National Cybersecurity Inter-Agency Committee (NCIAC).**

SECTION 4. SUPERVISING AND ASSESSMENT CONCERNS. — the Department of Information and Communications Technology **(DICT)**, National Cybersecurity Inter-Agency Committee **(NCIAC)**, shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure the effective operations and build-up.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. — The Department of Information and Communications Technology **(DICT).**

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. — Within ninety **(90)** days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Information and Communications Technology **(DICT)**, National Cybersecurity Inter-Agency Committee **(NCIAC)** shall, in consultation with other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the **IRR** or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund this act shall be charged under the Department of Information and Communications Technology **(DICT)**.

The amount of Five Billion Pesos **(Php 5, 000,000,000.00)** for the operation and administration of the **Cyber Defense Program** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**.

Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the implementation of this act shall be included in the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

The agencies concerned shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation, and management of all the facilities and equipment's.

Thereafter, appropriations for the **(DICT)**, shall be included in the budget proposals under the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**

The Department of Budget and Management **(DBM)** shall rationalize the existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the **(DICT)** in accordance with the prevailing provisions and relevant compensation and position classification laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 9. CONTINUING APPROPRIATION. - The Department of Budget and Management **(DBM)** is hereby mandated to include annually in the next five **(5)** years, in the President's Program of expenditures for submission to Congress, and release, an amount not less than five **(5)** billion pesos **(Php 5, 000, 000, 000.00)** for the implementation of this Act.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the **Cyber Defense Program** shall be included in the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

SECTION 10. PERIODIC REPORTS - The Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (**DICT**) shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by both Congress and Senate and the appropriate departments, in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

SECTION 11. AUTOMATIC REVIEW - Every three (**3**) years after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the **President** of the Republic shall review the policies and programs in the defense and security sector and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 12. PROGRESS REPORT – The Secretary of the (**DICT**) shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the **Cyber Defense Program** which shall be submitted, to the Office of the **President**.

SECTION 13. INCREASE OF PERSONNEL. – The (**DICT**) shall maintain a sufficient staffing pattern.

Hence, it is authorized to increase its manpower to meet such required and may continue to increase personnel per percentage rate increase of committed mandates annually or as the need arises.

SECTION 14. PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION – The **Cyber Defense program** under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of three (**3**) years:

Provided, that payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period:

Provided, further, That the (**DICT**) shall continue to develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

SECTION 15. TRANSPARENCY - It is the duty of every citizen to preserve and conserve government transparency and all its resources. The retrieval and conservation of government transparency and its resources shall be vigorously pursued.

SECTION 16. PENAL CLAUSE. – Any person, whether natural or juridical, violating any section of this Act shall, upon conviction, therefore, be liable to a fine of not less than five hundred thousand pesos **(P500,000.00)** or imprisonment for a term not less than six **(6)** years, or both, at the discretion of the court for each and every violation.

In case the violation is committed by a corporation or an association, the penalty shall devolve upon the president, director, or any other officer responsible for such violation.

SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. — If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 18. REPEALING CLAUSE. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 19. EFFECTIVITY. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,