

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1403**



Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

Explanatory Note

This Bill seeks to mandate all power, telecommunication, cable and internet providers to mend dangling wires and clear non-operational overhead wires and cables. A similar Bill was proposed by this Representation during the 19th Congress. Unfortunately, due to lack of material time, the Bill remained in the House Committee level.

This Bill is the same as what was proposed during the 19th Congress. As such, this Representation reiterates my explanation stated in my original Bill:

Dangling, sagging and non-operational wires or cables of public utility companies such as telecommunications, cable and internet service providers add weight to the already heavy load on electrical posts and pose danger to the public. These so-called 'spaghetti' wires are also eyesores and nuisances. Moreover, these wires and cables, considered as "foreign attachments" to poles of electricity distributors, are one of the most common causes of pole troubles, which often result to power and service interruptions and could trigger tragic accidents.

Electricity, telephone, cable and other similar public utility providers must be reminded of their obligation as responsible administrators of their businesses to guarantee the overall safety of the public. Likewise, accountable public officials and servants, particularly local government officials, must address and provide appropriate solutions to the long-overdue issue of dangling and sagging wires in their respective areas of responsibility, by ensuring their proper installation, or removal of non-operational cables that crisscross streets or are left hanging and exposed along electric posts.

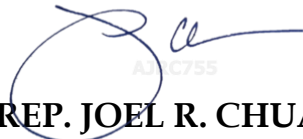
This bill seeks to require all public utility providers and similar entities to bundle up its sagging and dangling aerial utility wires, remove all non-operational or unused wires and cables, and whenever practicable or necessary, to relocate and install all its wires and cables underground, under pain of penalties for non-compliance.

Furthermore, the proposed measure mandates the use of wires and cables that are safe, durable and of highest quality which shall be carefully and systematically connected, fastened, secured and insulated following installation guidelines and safety standards to be determined by concerned government agencies to assure the physical safety of the public.

Finally, the bill directs all public utility companies and similar entities, as well as local government units (LGUs), to conduct periodic inspection of wires and cable installations in their respective areas of operation or jurisdiction to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Act and other relevant laws.

The enjoyment of the amenities of modern living, such as the benefits of electricity and access to telecommunication and internet services must never compromise public safety and environmental imperatives.

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



REP. JOEL R. CHUA
3rd District of Manila

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AN ACT
MANDATING ALL POWER, TELECOMMUNICATION, CABLE AND
INTERNET PROVIDERS TO MEND DANGLING WIRES AND CLEAR NON-
OPERATIONAL OVERHEAD WIRES AND CABLES AND PRESCRIBING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, 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 'Anti-Dangling Wires Act'

Section 2. Coverage - All companies, service providers, and other similar entities engaged in the business of providing telephone, cable, internet service and power supply to the public, and all other industries that use wires and cables in the operation of their business in the Philippines, shall be covered by the provisions of this Act.

Section 3. Responsibilities of Public Utility Providers - All public utility providers and similar entities covered by this Act are hereby required to:

- a) Bundle up its sagging and dangling aerial utility wires;
- b) Remove all non-operational or unused wires and cables; and
- c) Whenever practicable or necessary, relocate and install all its wires and cables underground.

Section 4. Safety Standards - Public utility companies and similar entities covered by this Act shall use wires and cables that are safe, durable and of highest quality which shall be carefully and systematically connected, fastened, secured and insulated to assure the physical safety of the public. Installation guidelines and safety standards shall be determined by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National Grid

Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and other concerned government agencies.

Section 5. Periodic Inspections - All public utility companies and similar entities covered by this Act and local government units (LGUs) shall conduct periodic inspection of the installations in their respective areas of operation or jurisdiction to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of this Act and other relevant laws.

Section 6. Penalties –

- a.) Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act which fails to comply with the requirements of Section 3 this Act shall pay a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) for each day of non-compliance computed from the time of filing of complaint to the proper authority.
- b.) Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act which fails to comply with the requirements of Section 4 and 5 of this Act shall pay a fine of not less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 300,000.00).

The Head of Agency and other concerned officials of the LGU which fails to comply with the requirement of Section 5 of this Act shall be liable for administrative sanctions.

- c.) Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act whose installation or relocation of its wires or cables caused any damage to property or injury to persons shall shoulder the full costs of the damage and/or medical expenses incurred as a result thereof, and pay a fine of not less than double the amount of such costs.
- d.) The LGU concerned may suspend or revoke the permits of any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act for any violation of this Act.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), the DICT, the NGCP, the DPWH, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with other concerned agencies and relevant stakeholders, shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

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

Section 9. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Section 10. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.