

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1712



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Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Ilocos Norte

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***EXPLANATORY NOTE***

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) is the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) agency of the Republic of the Philippines. PAGASA is primarily mandated to provide information and dissemination of weather and climate-related disturbances and updates, thereby assuring safety, well-being, and economic security. In the same way, the Agency contributes to promoting national progress by undertaking scientific and technological services in meteorology, hydrology, climatology, astronomy, and other geophysical sciences.

This measure seeks to provide additional modernization funding to PAGASA to lay the foundation of effective and efficient weather and climate monitoring and information dissemination. This modernization program will further strengthen the country's monitoring, mitigation, and response system for calamities.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL MODERNIZATION FUNDING**  
**TO THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL, AND**  
**ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), AND**  
**FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “PAGASA Modernization Act.”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby a declared policy of the State to apply scientific and technical knowledge and information as an effective instrument to ensure the safety, well-being, and economic security of the people; to safeguard the environment; and to promote national progress and sustainable socioeconomic development through various applications of meteorology, geophysics, astronomy, and allied sciences. The State also recognizes the need to strengthen the capability of government personnel tasked to provide atmospheric, geophysical, astronomical, and other weather and climate-related services and information to the public.

The State shall undertake the modernization of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to improve its technological operational capacity, strengthen its role as the premier national weather agency, and to attain its vision as a center of excellence for weather-related information services.

**SECTION 3. Period of Implementation.** – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of two (2) years:

*Provided,* That payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period;

*Provided, further,* That PAGASA shall continue to modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

**SECTION 4. *PAGASA Modernization Fund.*** – There is hereby created the PAGASA Modernization Fund to be used exclusively for the PAGASA Modernization Program.

The PAGASA Modernization Fund shall be sourced from the following:

- (a) The amount of Two billion pesos (₱2,000,000,000.00) to be taken from the share of the National Government in the gross income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). For two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, the amount of One billion pesos (₱1,000,000,000.00) per year shall be released to the PAGASA. The entire amount of Two billion pesos (₱2,000,000,000.00), including any interest income therein, shall be used exclusively for capital outlay.
- (b) Income from PAGASA Specialized Products and Services and Cost Recovery Program provided under Republic Act No. 10692 (R.A. No. 10692); and
- (c) Loans, grants, bequests, and donations, whether from local or foreign sources. – The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), with the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and subsequently the Department of Finance (DOF), is hereby granted the authority to enter into loan agreements with foreign financial institutions.

The PAGASA Modernization Fund shall be administered by the Administrator of the PAGASA in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

**SECTION 5. *Progress Report.*** – The Administrator of the PAGASA shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the PAGASA Modernization Program which shall be submitted, through the Secretary of the DOST, to the President and to the Chairpersons of the Committees on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be initially charged against the current fiscal year appropriations of the DOST-PAGASA.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

**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 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

**SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

**SECTION 9. *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 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any provision of law, decree, order, rule or regulation inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,