

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2646**



Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samantha Taliño Santos

AN ACT MANDATING ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO DEVELOP THEIR RESPECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE CONTINUITY PLAN FOR PURPOSES OF CONTINUED DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN CASES OF DISASTERS, OR OTHER EMERGENCIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, as an archipelagic country along the Pacific Ring of Fire and the typhoon belt, is among the most disaster-prone nations in the world. Over the years, it has experienced a range of emergencies that have tested the strength and responsiveness of public institutions. From the COVID-19 pandemic to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, and droughts, these events have repeatedly disrupted essential government services and exposed gaps in our preparedness.

Natural hazards continue to affect many parts of the country, often causing significant damage and displacement. Earthquakes have struck various regions, triggering evacuations and damaging infrastructure. Volcanic unrest has forced communities to relocate, while prolonged droughts and extreme heat have reduced crop yields and limited access to clean water. Each of these emergencies has placed pressure on national agencies and local government units, many of which have struggled to maintain operations due to limited resources or the absence of comprehensive continuity plans.

The pandemic, in particular, brought to light the full extent of our institutional vulnerabilities. As restrictions limited mobility and public health concerns intensified, many government offices found it difficult to continue serving the public. This experience underscored the importance of having Public Service Continuity Plans, or PSCPs, that are practical, regularly reviewed, and designed to ensure that vital services remain available even in the most difficult circumstances.

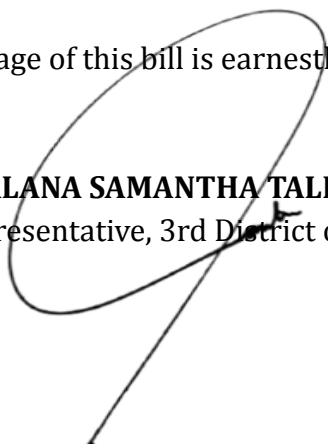
While Republic Act No. 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, outlines the country's framework for disaster preparedness, it does not specifically require all government agencies and local government units to establish continuity plans for essential services. This remains a significant gap, especially in light of the increasing frequency and complexity of emergencies.

Other recent laws, such as Republic Act No. 12077 or the Student Loan Payment Moratorium During Disasters and Emergencies Act, reflect the growing awareness of the need for government to remain flexible and responsive during times of crisis. These measures emphasize that public services should not stop when people need them the most.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize continuity planning across all levels of government by requiring the formulation, implementation, and regular updating of PSCPs. By promoting a culture of readiness and ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of essential services, this bill aims to build stronger and more resilient institutions that can continue serving the public no matter the situation.

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

MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS
Representative, 3rd District of Cotabato



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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 “Public Service Continuity Plan Act”

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State, consistent with the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, to promote and maintain effectiveness, efficiency, and economy in government, enhance institutional capacity for public service delivery, and ensure the continuous provision of essential services during disasters, emergencies, and other crises. The State recognizes the need to strengthen the resilience of government institutions to ensure the attainment of national development goals and the welfare of the people.

Section 3. **Definition of Terms.** – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be used under the definition provided hereof, to wit:

- a. Disaster - refers to a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society involving widespread human, material, economic, or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources, as defined under Republic Act No. 10121.
- b. Emergency - refers to an unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action, including but not limited to natural or human-induced events.

- c. Essential Services - refer to the most critical and indispensable services of an agency relative to its mandate, where timely and orderly recovery is necessary to ensure continued relevance and public welfare.
- d. Government Agency - refers to any of the various units of the Government, including a department, bureau, office, instrumentality, or government-owned or controlled corporation, or a local government or a distinct unit therein
- e. Instrumentality - refers to any agency of the National Government, not integrated within the department framework vested with special functions or jurisdiction by law, endowed with some if not all corporate powers, administering special funds, and enjoying operational autonomy, usually through a charter. This term includes regulatory agencies, chartered institutions and government-owned or controlled corporations
- f. Local Government Units (LGU) - refers to the political subdivisions established by or in accordance with the Constitution
- g. Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP) – refers to an all-hazard plan that aims to ensure the continuous delivery of essential services to the public amid any disruption, including but not limited to pandemics, natural disasters, civil disturbances, or other emergencies.

Section 4. ***Development of Public Service Continuity Plan.*** - All government agencies, instrumentalities, and local government units are mandated to develop, implement, and regularly update their respective Public Service Continuity Plans. The PSCP shall identify internal capacities, recovery requirements, and strategies to ensure the agency or institution can continuously function during emergencies, disaster incidents, and crises. Each agency or LGU shall review and update its PSCP annually, in accordance with its internal audit schedule or annual planning and budgeting cycle, and submit a report to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

Section 5. ***Role of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).*** The OCD, as the implementing arm of the NDRRMC pursuant to Republic Act No. 10121, shall provide technical assistance, guidance, and oversight in the formulation, development, and updating of the PSCPs of concerned agencies, bureaus, offices, and local government units. The NDRRMC shall monitor compliance and may issue additional guidelines as necessary.

Section 6. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the regular appropriations of all government agencies and instrumentalities, subject to the usual government budgeting process. Local government

units shall likewise include in their respective appropriation ordinances such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act.

Section 7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC, in consultation with the OCD, appropriate government agencies, local government units, and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. ***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 9. ***Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,