



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3335



Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to develop public utilities infrastructure, particularly electricity, water and internet connection services, in underserved and geographically isolated areas.

As an archipelagic country, millions of Filipinos reside in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas that lack reliable access to basic services and essential public utilities such as electricity, water, and internet connection services. Without having access to reliable public utilities, the quality of life of the residents and the socio-economic development in such areas are greatly impeded.

In the island municipality of Rapu-Rapu, Albay for instance, the electricity supply is extremely limited and often unreliable. Potable water systems are lacking, with many households still depending on natural springs and rainwater catchment. Internet and mobile connectivity are intermittent or completely absent in several barangays. A similar situation is found in the remote upland areas of Camalig, Albay and Daraga, Albay as well as in the coastal barangays of Manito, Albay where minimal infrastructure exacerbates isolation and underdevelopment.

Even the more urbanized centers like Legazpi City, Albay and the town proper of Daraga, Albay are starting to feel the strain. Rapid urbanization in these

areas has outpaced the capacity of existing utilities, resulting in frequent service interruptions, substandard water supply, and slow internet speeds. Moreover, natural disasters—such as typhoons, earthquakes, and eruptions of *Mayon Volcano*—repeatedly expose the vulnerability and fragility of the district’s utility infrastructure.

This stark disparity in access to utilities within the same district is unjust and remains a clear barrier to inclusive growth. Without reliable and equitable delivery of electricity, water, and internet services, families are left behind, businesses cannot thrive, educational outcomes suffer, and public health is compromised. Every Filipino deserves the dignity of basic services, regardless of location or income.

Through this proposed measure, access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity, drinking water and internet connectivity will be addressed. The Department of Energy, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as well as local government units, are tasked to make an inventory of public utilities infrastructures, conduct feasibility studies and come up with an infrastructure development plan to ensure that the residents in underserved and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in the country are able to access basic and essential public utilities services.

The ultimate aim is to ensure that every barangay—whether urban or rural, coastal or upland, mainland or island—has reliable access to these essential services that underpin human dignity, socio-economic development, and disaster resilience.

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



CARLOS ANDES LORIA



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
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HOUSE BILL NO. 3835

Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

1 **AN ACT**

2 **PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**
3 **INFRASTRUCTURE IN UNDERSERVED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY**
4 **ISOLATED AND DISADVANTAGED AREAS AND APPROPRIATING**
5 **FUNDS THEREFOR**
6

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

7 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Public*
8 *Utilities Infrastructures Act.*”

9 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to uphold the
10 dignity, general welfare and development of every Filipino by providing access
11 to efficient, reliable, and affordable public utilities. Towards this end, the State
12 shall promote inclusive growth and ensure that the infrastructure and facilities,
13 particularly in underserved and geographically isolated areas, are sufficient for
14 the delivery of essential electricity, water and internet connection services.

1 SEC. 3. **Coverage.** – This Act applies to all public utilities’ consumers,
2 whether residential, commercial, or industrial. For purposes of this Act, “*public*
3 *utilities*” refer to electricity, water and internet connection services.

4 SEC. 4. **Right to Access and Services.** – The State shall, through the
5 concerned government agencies, guarantee the right to access and services of
6 every Filipino to safe, reliable and affordable public utilities by ensuring the
7 installation and expansion of necessary infrastructures and facilities.

8 SEC. 5. **Standard of Service.** – Public utilities providers must provide a
9 twenty-four-hour a day, seven days a week, uninterrupted supply. The Magna
10 Carta for Residential Electricity Consumers issued by the Energy Regulatory
11 Commission is made an integral part of this Act.

12 The National Water Resources Board and National Telecommunications
13 Commission shall promulgate the Magna Carta for Water Consumers and Magna
14 Carta for Internet Consumers respectively, which shall also be an integral part of
15 this Act.

16 SEC. 6. **Inventory and Prioritization.** – The Department of Energy
17 (DOE), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department
18 of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and local government
19 units (LGUs) shall make an inventory or update existing inventory of public
20 utilities infrastructures and identify the areas in need of installation or expansion
21 of infrastructure and facilities necessary for the delivery of public utilities
22 services.

1 In determining the areas for installation or expansion, the departments and
2 LGUs shall prioritize the following:

- 3 a. Geographically isolated areas;
- 4 b. Areas vulnerable to natural disasters;
- 5 c. Areas with frequent and long duration of service disruptions;
- 6 d. Areas with pronounced socioeconomic disadvantages; and
- 7 e. Areas where the public institutions such as hospitals, schools,
8 government offices and evacuation centers are located.

9 **SEC. 7. Feasibility Studies.** – After identifying the areas in need of
10 installation or expansion, the DOE, DENR and DICT, in coordination with the
11 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall conduct feasibility
12 studies to determine the practicality and viability of the public utilities
13 infrastructure that needs to be installed or expanded.

14 **SEC. 8. Infrastructure Development Plan.** – Using the inventory and
15 feasibility studies, the DOE, DENR and DICT shall, in coordination with the
16 respective Regional Development Council (RDCs), formulate the public utilities
17 infrastructure development plan, including its corresponding budgetary
18 requirements. The RDCs shall endorse the infrastructure development plan to the
19 Infrastructure Committee, which shall, in turn, recommend the same to the
20 Economic and Development Council for its approval and inclusion in the
21 formulation of the annual government expenditures.

1 SEC. 9. **Implementation.** – In implementing the Infrastructure
2 Development Plan, the DOE, DENR and DICT may enter into agreement with
3 the private sectors under the provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 6957, as
4 amended by RA 7718, commonly known as the “*Build-Operate-and-Transfer*
5 *Law.*”

6 The installation or expansion of public utilities infrastructure must be
7 implemented in the areas of priority as provided in Section 6 of this Act. The
8 DOE, DENR and DICT shall coordinate with local government units
9 concerned as to the location where the public utilities infrastructure may be
10 installed.

11 The local government units concerned shall facilitate the issuance of all the
12 necessary permits and licenses for the installation or expansion within their
13 respective jurisdictions.

14 SEC. 10. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial
15 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the
16 concerned departments. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued
17 implementation of this Act shall be included in the respective budget of the
18 implementing agencies as may be identified by DOE, DENR and DICT in the
19 General Appropriations Act.

20 SEC. 11. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)
21 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretaries of Energy, Environment and
22 Natural Resources, and Information and Communications Technology shall, in

1 coordination with the Secretaries of the Interior and Local Government and
2 Public Works and Highways, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for
3 the effective implementation of this Act.

4 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is
5 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining part or provision not affected
6 shall remain in full force and effect.

7 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations,
8 executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
9 repealed, amended, or revised accordingly.

10 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12 Approved,