



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5746



Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Citizen participation is a fundamental aspect of a robust and functioning democracy, ensuring that government actions reflect the will and needs of the people. However, in the Philippines, there has been a growing disconnect between government institutions and the citizenry, resulting in decreased public trust and engagement. The Citizen Participation in Governance Act seeks to address this issue by institutionalizing mechanisms that facilitate active public involvement in government decision-making processes. By empowering and involving citizens in governance, this bill aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and responsiveness of public institutions.

The bill proposes the establishment of Citizen Advisory Councils (CACs) at the national, regional, and local levels, ensuring representation from various sectors of society, including civil society organizations, academia, business, youth, women, and indigenous peoples. These councils will provide a platform for citizens to offer recommendations and feedback on government policies, programs, and projects, thereby fostering a more inclusive and participatory governance process. Additionally, the bill mandates public consultations for major government decisions and the publication of notices to ensure broad and inclusive participation. By incorporating citizen inputs into final decisions, the government can ensure that its actions are more aligned with the needs and aspirations of the people.

Furthermore, the bill introduces mechanisms for citizen-initiated audits and reviews of government projects and programs, enhancing public oversight and accountability. It also provides for capacity-building and support to empower citizens and civil society organizations to participate effectively in governance processes. This includes training programs on governance, technical assistance, and funding support for citizen-led initiatives. The measure represents a comprehensive approach to strengthening democratic practices and rebuilding public trust in government institutions, ultimately contributing to a more transparent, accountable, and responsive governance system in the Philippines.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR ENHANCED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE, PROVIDING FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Citizen Participation*
2 *in Governance Act.*"
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4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote and facilitate active citizen participation in governance processes to enhance
6 transparency, accountability, and responsiveness of public institutions.
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8 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms
9 shall mean:

- 10 (a) Citizen Participation – the active engagement of citizens in decision-making
11 processes, including policy formulation, budget allocation, program
12 implementation, and service delivery.
13 (b) Public Consultation – a process by which government agencies seek the views
14 and inputs of citizens on proposed policies, projects, or decisions.
15 (c) Citizen Advisory Councils (CACs) – councils composed of representatives from
16 various sectors of society to provide input and feedback on government actions
17 and policies.
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19 **SEC. 4. Establishment of Citizen Advisory Councils.** - Citizen Advisory
20 Councils (CACs) shall be established at the national, regional, and local levels to
21 facilitate citizen participation in governance. These councils shall:
22

- 23 (a) Be composed of representatives from civil society organizations, academe,
24 business, youth, women, indigenous peoples, and other relevant sectors.

- 1 (b) Provide recommendations and feedback on proposed government policies,
2 programs, and projects.
- 3 (c) Monitor and assess the implementation and impact of government
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5 **SEC. 5. Public Consultation and Participation.** - All government agencies
6 and local government units (LGUs) are mandated to:

- 7 (a) Conduct public consultations on major policies, projects, and decisions,
8 ensuring broad and inclusive participation;
- 9 (b) Publish notices of public consultations in widely accessible formats and through
10 various media channels; and
- 11 (c) Consider and incorporate the inputs and recommendations from public
12 consultations into final decisions.

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14 **SEC. 6. Citizen-Initiated Audits and Reviews.** - Citizens, through recognized
15 civil society organizations, may initiate audits and reviews of government projects and
16 programs. The process shall include:

- 17 (a) Submission of a petition signed by at least 1,000 registered voters;
- 18 (b) Conduct of an audit or review by the Commission on Audit (COA) with citizen
19 representatives as observers; and
- 20 (c) Publication of audit results and recommendations in publicly accessible
21 formats.

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23 **SEC. 7. Capacity Building and Support.** - The government shall provide
24 training and support to citizens and civil society organizations to enhance their
25 capacity to participate effectively in governance processes. This shall include:

- 26 (a) Training programs on governance, public policy, and civic engagement.
- 27 (b) Technical assistance for conducting independent research and analysis.
- 28 (c) Funding support for citizen-led initiatives and projects that promote good
29 governance.

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31 **SEC. 8. Reporting and Accountability.** - Government agencies and LGUs
32 shall include in their annual reports their citizen participation activities, including:

- 33 (a) Summary of public consultations conducted and their outcomes.
- 34 (b) Actions taken based on citizen feedback and recommendations.
- 35 (c) Impact assessments of policies and projects with significant citizen
36 involvement.

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38 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of the
39 Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with relevant government
40 agencies and civil society organizations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
41 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its
42 effectivity.

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44 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** The amount necessary for the initial implementation
45 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned
46 government agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued
47 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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49 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** - If any portion of this Act is declared invalid or
50 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

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SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,