

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



House Bill No. 6349

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to operate under a Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code System introduced in 1977, an era marked by a smaller population, simpler administrative divisions, and limited digital infrastructure. As the country has expanded and modernized over the decades, this unchanged four-digit format has become increasingly outdated, failing to keep pace with new governance structures, geographic realities, and rapidly growing logistical demands.

In today's digital and data-dependent environment, this obsolete postal coding framework has become a significant bottleneck. Incomplete, inconsistent, or overlapping ZIP codes disrupt efficient mail and parcel handling, burden courier companies with higher operational costs, and slow down e-commerce fulfillment. Industries that rely on precise and granular location data such as logistics services, ride-hailing and delivery apps, online marketplaces, banking institutions, and mapping technologies face daily operational challenges due to the lack of a modern, standardized coding system.

Modernizing the ZIP code system is equally crucial for governance and national planning. Barangay-level coding will enhance the accuracy of statistical data for the Philippine Statistics Authority, support targeted delivery of government services, and improve disaster response, mapping, and population monitoring. These more precise geospatial identifiers also contribute to national security, emergency preparedness, and transparent allocation of public resources.

Under the proposed Modernized ZIP Code System Act, the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPOST) is tasked with developing and rolling out an updated alphanumeric ZIP code format. Each barangay will be assigned a unique code composed of two letters and five numbers, ensuring flexibility for future boundary adjustments, accommodating population growth, and aligning the country with international best practices for digital address systems and geospatial technologies.

The measure further mandates upgrades to PHLPOST's ZIP Code Locator platform and grants a three-year transition period for government agencies and private entities to adjust their systems accordingly.

By replacing a decades-old and fragmented postal coding scheme, the proposed legislation positions the Philippines for a more efficient, data-driven, and digitally integrated future, strengthening logistics, e-commerce, public administration, and national development.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this legislative measure is earnestly sought

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel R. Chua', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOEL R. CHUA

Representative, 3rd District, Manila

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION (PHLPOST) TO ADOPT
A MODERNIZED ZONE IMPROVEMENT PLAN CODE SYSTEM

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 ***Modernized ZIP Code System Act***.

Section 2. *Modernizing the PHLPOST ZIP Code System* - The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPOST) is hereby mandated to adopt and institutionalize a modernized alphanumeric Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code System.

Section 3. *Coverage* - The modernized alphanumeric ZIP Code shall be composed of: two (2) alphabetic characters (A-Z), representing the province; and five (5) Arabic numerals (0-9), representing the city or municipality and barangay. Each of the current forty-two thousand and eleven (42,011) barangays shall be assigned a unique alphanumeric zip code: *Provided*, That the PHLPOST shall ensure that the system allows flexibility in accommodating the creation, division, merger, or abolition of a barangay, through a law or ordinance, and shall regularly coordinate with the Department of the Interior and Local Government and other concerned government agencies.

Section 4. *Enhanced Code Locator* - Utilizing the modernized system, the PHLPOST shall update its website's ZIP Code Locator that shall allow the public to search with ease the ZIP Code of a certain barangay and vice versa.

Section 5. *Transition Period* - A transitory period of thirty-six (36) months from the effectivity of this Act shall be set for all national government agencies, local government units, government-owned or -controlled corporations, and private sector entities to update their database using the new ZIP Code System. The PHLPOST shall develop and implement, together with the communications offices of all government agencies, an information and education campaign on the modernized ZIP Code System to all sectors, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

Section 6. *Appropriations* – The funding necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment, and every year thereafter

Section 7. *Separability* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 9. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with an established internet website presence.

Approved,