

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6435



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The country's existing Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code System dates back to 1977, an era when local government boundaries were simpler, technology was limited, and logistical needs were far less complex. Decades of expansion in population, infrastructure, and digital systems have since transformed the national landscape, yet the four-digit postal format has remained static and antiquated, leaving it increasingly unable to address modern administrative and operational demands.

Over time, this outdated framework has evolved into a significant constraint, especially in today's digital and logistics-driven economy. The persistence of incomplete, inaccurate, or overlapping ZIP codes tangibly disrupts the timely movement of mail and parcels, inflates operational costs for delivery and courier providers, and slows down e-commerce fulfillment. Industries that depend on precise and granular location information like logistics firms, ride-hailing, and delivery platforms, online marketplaces, financial institutions, and navigation technologies must continually compensate for the limitations of an obsolete postal coding system.

The need for modernization extends well beyond commercial efficiency. A barangay-level ZIP code structure will substantially strengthen the government's capacity for accurate data collection, socio-economic profiling, and targeted program delivery. It will support the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in refining demographic datasets, improve disaster preparedness and emergency response, and enhance national mapping, planning, and population monitoring. Reliable and standardized geospatial identifiers also reinforce national security and enable more transparent allocation of public resources.

To respond to these longstanding issues, the Modernized ZIP Code System Act mandates the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) to upgrade, among other things, its ZIP Code format. If materialized, each barangay will receive a unique code composed of two (2) letters and five (5) numbers, ensuring adaptability to future boundary changes, accommodating

population growth, and aligning the country with international standards for digital address systems and geospatial technologies.

This measure likewise requires PHLPost to upgrade its ZIP Code Locator platform to ensure broader public accountability and seamless integration with both government and the private sector. It also provides a three (3)-year transition period for agencies and businesses to update their records, databases, and platforms in an orderly and efficient manner.

By modernizing a postal coding system that has remained largely unchanged for nearly five (5) decades, the proposed measure lays the groundwork for a more coherent, efficient, and technologically-attuned national address framework. The shift to a barangay-level alphanumeric code not only streamlines logistical operations and strengthens the country's rapidly growing e-commerce ecosystem, but also enhances the government's capacity for accurate data management, targeted service delivery, and strategic planning. With improved geospatial identifiers supporting everything, from emergency response to national security, this reform positions the Philippines to operate on par with global digital addressing standards.

Considering that this initiative had already secured approval on Third Reading in the previous Congress, its immediate enactment is both justified and imperative to ensure the country's continued progress in governance, public administration, and economic government.

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



ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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

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 “Modernized ZIP Code System Act.”

SECTION 2. *Implementing Agency.* - The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) is hereby mandated to adopt and institutionalize a modernized alphanumeric Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code System.

SECTION 3. *ZIP Code Structure and Implementation.* - 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 an ordinance, and shall regularly coordinate with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other concerned government agencies.

SECTION 4. *Updating of ZIP Code Locator Database.* - 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. *Transitory Period.* - A transitory period of thirty-six (36) months or three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act shall be set for all

national government agencies, local government units, government-owned and 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. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,