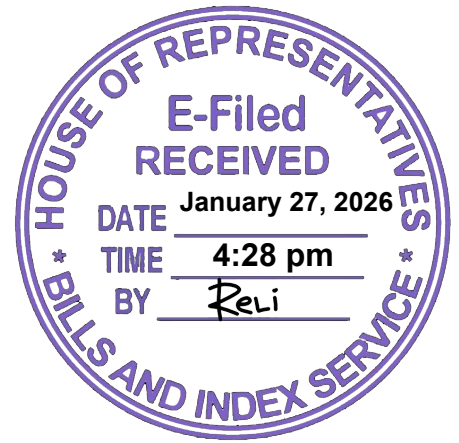


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7441**



Introduced by **HON. JORGE DANIEL S. BOCOBO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

- Proverbs 15:22

The Philippine energy sector has long been shaped by rapid shifts—changing global fuel markets, increasing demand from urbanization and digitalization, and the growing imperative to diversify the country’s energy mix. Yet even as these pressures intensify, policymakers continue to grapple with incomplete data, inconsistent indicators, and fragmented information across agencies. Decisions with far-reaching consequences for consumers, investors, and local governments are often made without a fully coherent picture of how the power system actually performs.

This knowledge gap has become one of the country’s most persistent vulnerabilities. Institutions responsible for planning, regulating, and overseeing the electric power industry often operate with separate datasets, differing methodologies, and unaligned priorities. The absence of a single authoritative body to consolidate analysis, verify assumptions, and examine long-term trends has allowed inefficiencies to accumulate and disputes to multiply. Issues surrounding pricing, reserves, transmission congestion, project delays, and regional disparities in access often surface only once they have already become urgent.

In recent years, concerns about pricing, supply adequacy, grid congestion, and project delays have been addressed through separate hearings, investigations, and consultations. While these efforts have surfaced important issues, they are often confined to specific episodes or disputes. What has been missing is a comprehensive, one-time review that connects these threads and examines the underlying structure that produces them.

This proposed bill responds to this gap by organizing a single, integrated inquiry into how the electric power industry functions and how it can be improved. The Commission will assemble a unified picture of the generation, transmission, and distribution segments; examine how decisions in one part of the system produce consequences in another; and assess whether current institutional arrangements still serve the country’s long-term interests. By doing so, it will help Congress identify reforms that are grounded in evidence rather than shaped by fragmented or competing narratives.

ENERCOM is also envisioned to build an integrated planning lens—one that aligns infrastructure needs, regulatory timelines, market behavior, and consumer welfare. It shall evaluate not only the implementation of existing laws, but the underlying assumptions that guided their creation. It shall clarify roles, resolve overlapping mandates, and recommend ways to streamline processes that currently hinder timely infrastructure development. In assuming the oversight responsibilities of the Joint Congressional Energy Commission, ENERCOM will ensure that Congress maintains a strong and informed presence in monitoring the sector's evolution.

The country's next phase of development will require a power system that is stable, transparent, and capable of adapting to new technologies and market pressures. A dedicated commission, equipped with technical expertise and a clear, time-bound mandate, is essential to producing the comprehensive analysis needed to guide future policy.



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AN ACT

CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON ENERGY TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW, ASSESSMENT, AND EVALUATION OF THE STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE ENERGY IN THE POWER GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, AND DISTRIBUTION SECTORS, AND RECOMMEND TARGETED POLICY REFORMS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROMOTING EFFICIENCY, TRANSPARENCY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Congressional Commission on Energy Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to ensure reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for all Filipinos as a cornerstone of national development. In pursuit of this objective, the State shall conduct a comprehensive, independent, and evidence-based evaluation of the electric power industry, covering its structure, performance, regulatory frameworks, and administrative processes.

Recognizing the indispensable role of energy in fostering inclusive growth and human development, the State shall promote reforms that strengthen the power sector’s capacity to meet present and future demands.

Towards this end, the State shall adopt policies that promote access to energy, timely infrastructure development, regulatory transparency, and rationalize the costs of electricity. It shall streamline overlapping or inefficient processes to eliminate administrative barriers that hinder progress.

SEC. 3. Creation of the Congressional Commission on Energy. – There is hereby created a Congressional Commission on Energy (ENERCOM), which shall conduct an evidence-based assessment of the electric power industry, encompassing the generation, transmission, and distribution sectors, as well as the regulatory and administrative processes that govern it for the purpose of recommending concrete and targeted reforms in order to improve energy security and stability, and attain just, fair, and transparent electricity charges.

In addition, the ENERCOM shall assume all the functions and responsibilities of the Joint Congressional Energy Commission under Sec. 62 of Republic Act No. 9136, as amended, including oversight functions in the implementation of Republic Act No. 12120 or the Philippine Natural Gas Industry Development Act as well as all energy laws.

SEC. 4. Objectives of the Commission. – The ENERCOM shall have the following objectives:

- (a) Conduct an in-depth performance review of the generation, transmission, and distribution sectors in terms of efficiency, reliability, pricing, accessibility, resiliency, competition, and environmental sustainability;
- (b) Set specific, targeted, measurable and time-bound solutions that are products of a comprehensive assessment and evaluation, effective planning, and strategic investments in energy;
- (c) Create and maintain a monthly database of all charges imposed by entities under the distribution, transmission, and generation sectors;
- (d) Assess the sufficiency, implementation, and effectiveness of existing laws governing the electric power industry, including but not limited to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA), the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act;
- (e) Develop a holistic, harmonized, and coordinated energy ecosystem, through a review of the mandates of the agencies and entities involved in the energy sector, namely: the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), the National Power Corporation (NPC), National Electrification Administration (NEA), the National Transmission Corporation (TransCO), and the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP).
- (f) Formulate a Distribution Development Plan until such time that this responsibility is assigned to another agency or entity, and prepare a Philippine Energy Masterplan that harmonizes the Philippine Energy Plan of the DOE, the Transmission Development Plan of the NGCP, and the aforementioned Distribution Development Plan to ensure full integration and coordination of all sectoral plans;
- (g) Identify and analyze structural, institutional, regulatory, and process-related gaps that contribute to inefficiencies, market, supply, and price distortions, project delays, and regulatory or administrative bottlenecks;
- (h) Examine the permitting and licensing processes for energy projects at the national and local levels, and recommend improvements to the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop under Republic Act No. 11234 and propose measures to eliminate duplicative requirements, reduce red tape, and resolve jurisdictional overlaps; and
- (i) Recommend legislative, regulatory, structural, and procedural measures to improve energy governance, streamline administrative processes, ensure cost-reflective pricing, and protect consumer interests.

SEC. 5. Scope of Assessment. – The ENERCOM shall examine, among others, the following areas:

- (a) Generation: supply adequacy, fuel mix diversification, contracting mechanisms, power supply agreements, reserve margins, and renewable energy integration;
- (b) Transmission: performance of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), system reliability, congestion points, access protocols, grid expansion, and right-of-way issues;
- (c) Distribution: utility performance indicators, franchise compliance, service reliability, rate unbundling, electricity charges, and treatment of missionary and underserved areas;
- (d) Regulation and pricing: implementation of performance-based regulation (PBR), rate reset process implementation, regulatory backlogs and delays, tariff-setting methodologies, pricing in the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), cost recovery structures, transparency, and access to information;
- (e) Governance and coordination: institutional roles of the Department of Energy (DOE), ERC, TransCO or NGCP, National Electrification Administration (NEA), and other

agencies; inter-agency coordination; and mechanisms for public participation and oversight;

- (f) Administrative and permitting processes: the procedural timeline for power project development and interconnection, barriers posed by permitting from local government units (LGUs) and other agencies, and institutional inertia caused by regulatory entanglements or pass-the-buck practices.

SEC 6. Composition of ENERCOM. – The Commission shall be composed of ten (10) members, with five (5) members from the Senate and five (5) members from the House of Representatives.

The Chairpersons of the Senate and House Committees on Energy shall serve as Co-Chairpersons of the Commission. The Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation, and on Public Services, the House Committee on Government Reorganization, and the House Special Committee on Nuclear Energy shall serve as Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission.

The other members from each of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively.

The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation, but travelling, communications, and other necessary expenses shall be allowed, subject to existing laws, and rules and regulations.

SEC 7. Duration of ENERCOM. – The Commission shall accomplish its mandate and issue a Final Report within three (3) years from its organization, unless extended by a joint resolution of Congress. It shall organize itself and commence its mandate upon the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 8. Powers and Functions. – The Commission shall have the power to:

- (a) Conduct public hearings, focus group discussions, and technical working groups and consultations with national government agencies, local government units, regulators, investors, consumers, and other stakeholders including engaging in international and regional institutions for technical expertise and benchmarking of best practices;
- (b) Review, assess, and evaluate the existing policies on regulation of the energy sector;
- (c) Recommend improvement in the harmonization of the policies and programs of the DOE, the ERC, and the Local Government Units;
- (d) Formulate short-term and long-term policy and program recommendations that consist of specific, targeted, measurable and time-bound solutions to include, but not limited to, the following:
 - (i) sectoral plans and targets;
 - (ii) physical and digital infrastructure; and
 - (iii) coordination between and among players of the energy sector.
- (e) Summon by subpoena any public official or private person to testify before it, or require by subpoena duces tecum the production of necessary documents, as may be necessary;
- (f) Commission independent studies or assessments from think tanks, academic institutions, or subject matter experts on topics such as pricing, regulation, consumer protection, energy infrastructure roadmaps, and project development processes;
- (g) Secure from any department, bureau, office or instrumentality of the government such assistance, including technical information, preparation and production of reports, and the submission of recommendations or plans, as may be required;
- (h) Access public records from any department, bureau, office, or agency, subject to confidentiality and the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

- (i) Approve the workplan for the conduct of the national review, assessment and harmonization tasks and the budget for the programs of the Commission and all disbursements therefrom, including compensation of all personnel;
- (j) Hire and appoint employees and personnel on temporary, contractual, or on consultancy basis;
- (k) Hold hearings and receive testimonies, reports and expert advice on the state of the energy sector, exhaust available options to identify problems, and consolidate coherent courses of action as remedies;
- (l) Review and act upon the recommendations of the Technical Secretariat or Standing Committees, or both, as it may deem appropriate;
- (m) Report to Congress its accomplishments on a periodic basis, its findings and recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress, the departments, and other government agencies concerned with the energy sector, and provide a final report at the end of the existence of the Commission. The report shall include a roadmap with clear key performance indicators and results framework to address the energy crisis, with the following guiding principles:
 - (i) Security — solutions must drive long-term energy security, stability, and affordability;
 - (ii) Accessibility — solutions must ensure access to reliable and affordable energy across the country, with the objective of connecting all communities and areas to the main grid;
 - (iii) Reliability — solutions must strengthen the energy sector's ability to withstand disruptions and adapt to emerging technologies and global transitions such as the net-zero emissions goal; and
 - (iv) Systemic — solutions must address structural inefficiencies and governance issues across the entire energy value chain.
- (n) Recommend additional legislation to further the objectives of this Act;
- (o) Formulate the necessary rules and guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act; and
- (p) Exercise all other powers necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 9. Secretariat and Technical Support. – The Senate and the House of Representatives shall jointly establish a Secretariat to serve as the administrative and technical support unit of the Commission. The Secretariat shall be composed of personnel from both Chambers, and may engage consultants or enter into partnerships with academic institutions, policy centers, or research bodies.

SEC 10. Standing Committees. – The members of the Commission shall establish from among its members standing committees, to be chaired by such members or experts from multisectoral groups, and engage resource persons from the public and private sectors as may be needed.

SEC 11. Technical Secretariat. – A Technical Secretariat, to be headed by an Executive Director, shall be organized to provide technical and administrative support to the Commission in the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions under Section 8 of this Act.

The Technical Secretariat shall co-exist with the Commission.

SEC 12. Executive Director. – The Executive Director (ED) to be appointed by the Commission must be a recognized expert with experience both in the fields of energy and management.¹ The ED shall work full-time and shall have the rank, privileges, and emoluments of an Executive Director IV (Salary Grade 29).

SEC 13. Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) as Research Arm. – The PIDS shall serve as the research arm of the Commission. During the course of the

Commission's existence, it shall produce data-based research and provide analysis to contribute to the formulation of energy policy recommendations.

SEC 14. Energy, Legislation and Policy Advisory Council. – An Energy, Legislation and Policy Advisory Council (Advisory Council) is hereby created to provide the Commission with expert assistance and advice. The members of the Advisory Council shall always be present in all meetings of the Commission. The Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall choose recognized experts based on integrity, competence, and track record in energy policy or regulation from the following sectors to form part of the Advisory Council: two (2) members from the academe, two (2) members from the business sector, four (4) members from the government energy agencies, two (2) members who are local government officials, and four (4) members from civil society organizations, consumer groups, and development partners engaged in the energy sector.

SEC. 15. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continuous implementation, including any deficiency in the current year, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act subject to existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC 16. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 17. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC 18. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.