

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7908



Introduced by
Rep. Gil “Kabarangay Jr” A. Acosta and Rep. Jose C. Alvarez

AN ACT
SIMPLIFYING THE DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSING
GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote a just and dynamic social order and to prioritize measures that protect the dignity and welfare of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, women, and children.¹ Access to timely financial assistance for medical and burial needs is a concrete expression of this constitutional duty. However, despite this mandate, many Filipinos in distress continue to face burdensome and excessive documentary requirements before they can avail themselves of urgently needed government assistance.

At present, agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) provide various forms of medical, burial, and related financial assistance. While these programs are essential social protection mechanisms, the absence of a uniform statutory ceiling on documentary requirements has resulted in procedural inconsistencies, documentary proliferation, and delays that defeat the very purpose of emergency assistance. Beneficiaries are frequently required to secure multiple certifications, social case study reports, barangay clearances, and other supporting documents that entail additional travel, expense, and lost time—burdens that weigh heaviest on indigent families during medical emergencies or bereavement.

This proposed measure institutionalizes a uniform and minimal set of documentary requirements for availing immediate financial assistance, limiting submissions to a valid government-issued identification card, a billing statement from the hospital, clinic, funeral parlor, or related entity, and an original or certified true copy of a medical certificate or medical abstract, or

¹ 1987 Philippine Constitution (Art. II, Secs. 9 & 15; Art. XIII, Secs. 11 & 13).

a death certificate, as applicable. By codifying these requirements into law, the bill removes discretionary authority to impose additional documents not strictly necessary for verification, thereby preventing administrative overreach while maintaining safeguards against fraud.

Consistent with the government's digital transformation agenda, the bill mandates coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) for the utilization of the eGov PH Super App or similar platforms as mechanisms for submitting requests for medical, burial, and similar financial assistance. Digital integration enhances transparency, traceability, and efficiency in public service delivery and aligns with ongoing e-governance initiatives.² The measure likewise requires coordination with the Anti-Red Tape Authority to ensure compliance with processing standards and to provide a mechanism for addressing complaints involving undue delays or excessive documentary requirements.

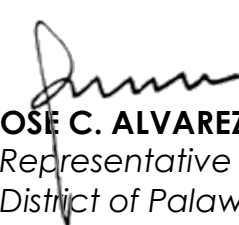
In addition, the bill mandates same-day processing of requests submitted with complete documentary requirements during official working hours, subject to fund availability. This provision reinforces the statutory timelines under Republic Act No. 11032 and affirms that emergency financial assistance must be responsive, not merely procedural. In matters of medical treatment and burial, time is not a mere administrative variable; it is often a determinant of health outcomes and human dignity.

Ultimately, the Direkta at Agad na Lingap at Interbensiyon (DALI) Act transforms bureaucratic compassion into institutional efficiency. It reduces transaction costs for the poor, curtails opportunities for rent-seeking and fixers, harmonizes agency practices, strengthens accountability through ARTA oversight, and accelerates the release of life-saving and dignity-preserving assistance. By simplifying access to government financial assistance, the State affirms that social protection must be direct, immediate, and humane.

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



GIL "Kabarangay Jr" A. ACOSTA
Representative
3rd District of Palawan



JOSE C. ALVAREZ
Representative
2nd District of Palawan

² Department of Information and Communications Technology. (2023). *eGov PH Super App Initiative*.

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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 “*Direkta at Agad na*
2 *Lingap at Interbensiyon (DALI) Act.*”

3 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall promote the general welfare
4 of Filipino people by ensuring that individuals and families in difficult situations
5 are provided with timely and accessible financial assistance. To this end, the
6 government shall adopt measures to remove excessive documentary
7 requirements and streamline procedures for availing aid from government
8 agencies.

9 **SEC. 3.** *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all national and
10 local government agencies and instrumentalities that provide medical, burial,
11 and similar forms of financial assistance, including the Department of Social
12 Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine

Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

SEC. 4. Standardized Requirements. – To avail of immediate financial assistance, beneficiaries shall be required to submit the following documents:

(a) Valid government-issued identification card (ID);

(b) Billing statement from the hospital, clinic, funeral parlor, or related entities; and

(c) Original or certified true copy of medical certificate or medical abstract with date of issuance, complete name, signature and license number of the attending physician, or death certificate issued by the hospital or the city/municipal health office, whichever is applicable.

Hospitals, clinics, and other authorized medical facilities issuing such medical certificates or medical abstracts shall, in coordination with the DOH, ensure that the foregoing information is clearly indicated therein.

Where the request for assistance is made through a representative, such representative shall present an authorization letter duly signed by the beneficiary, or, where the beneficiary is unable to sign due to age, illness, disability, or illiteracy, such other reasonable proof of authorization as may be prescribed by the implementing rules and regulations, along with a valid government-issued ID of both the beneficiary and the representative. The authorized representative must be a relative of the beneficiary within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, or a legal guardian: *Provided, That* no individual shall act as a representative for more than two (2) beneficiaries.

1 **SEC. 5.** *Digital Requests for Government Aid.* – The Department of
2 Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall be primarily tasked
3 to develop and use the eGov PH Super App or other appropriate digital
4 systems or platforms as may be prescribed in the implementing rules and
5 regulations, as a mechanism for Filipinos to avail aid from government
6 agencies. The online or mobile application shall be utilized to facilitate requests
7 for medical, burial, and similar forms of financial assistance.

8 **SEC. 6.** *Streamlined Processing.* – All concerned government agencies
9 shall process requests for assistance within the day, subject to availability of
10 funds: *Provided, That* complete documentary requirements are submitted
11 during official working hours.

12 Requests submitted on weekends, holidays, or outside official working
13 hours shall be processed on the next working day.

14 **SEC. 6.** *Coordination with the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA).* – The DSWD
15 and all implementing agencies shall coordinate with the Anti-Red Tape
16 Authority (ARTA) to ensure full compliance with Republic Act No. 9485, as
17 amended by Republic Act No. 11032 or the "Ease of Doing Business and
18 Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018". They shall likewise work with
19 ARTA to address complaints involving undue delays, excessive documentary
20 requirements, or other forms of non-compliance with the provisions of this Act.

21 **SEC. 7.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
22 the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with ARTA, DOH, PCSO,

Philhealth, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions and parts hereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,