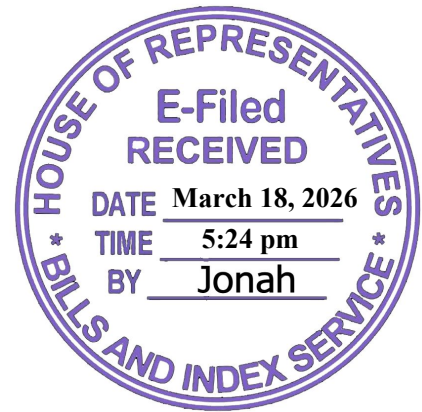


Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8689



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**Introduced by Hon. Kenneth T. Gatchalian**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Dangling and poorly maintained utility wires have become a common sight in many cities and municipalities across the Philippines. These unbundled, sagging, and abandoned cables not only contribute to visual clutter but also pose serious risks to public safety. During typhoons, heavy rains, or strong winds, loose wires can easily fall and endanger pedestrians, motorists, and nearby residents. In some cases, these wires obstruct roads, interfere with emergency operations, and increase the risk of electrical hazards.

With the rapid expansion of telecommunications, cable, and internet services, overhead wiring systems have multiplied in urban communities. However, many non-operational or unused cables are left attached to utility poles, resulting in excessive and unmanaged wiring infrastructure.

To address this growing concern, this measure mandates all power, telecommunications, cable, and internet providers to properly bundle sagging wires, remove unused or non-operational cables, and ensure that aerial utility installations meet the required safety clearances. It also empowers local government units to enforce compliance through the regulation of permits.

By promoting safer and more orderly utility infrastructure, this proposed measure seeks to protect the public from preventable hazards and improve the overall safety and appearance of our communities.

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



KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN

Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8689

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AN ACT  
MANDATING THE PROPER MANAGEMENT, BUNDLING, AND REMOVAL  
OF DANGLING AND NON-OPERATIONAL OVERHEAD UTILITY WIRES  
AND CABLES, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR

*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 “*Anti-Spaghetti*  
2           *Wires Act.*”

3           **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure public  
4           safety and promote orderly infrastructure development in communities. The State  
5           recognizes that unmaintained, sagging, and abandoned overhead wires pose hazards  
6           to pedestrians and motorists, increase the risk of fire incidents, and may cause danger  
7           during typhoons and other severe weather disturbances. Toward this end, the State  
8           shall require the proper maintenance, bundling, and removal of non-operational  
9           aerial utility wires to ensure safer, more organized, and efficient utility services.

10           **SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- a. *Dangling Wires* refer to sagging, unsecured, or improperly installed overhead utility cables that pose a risk to public safety.
- b. *Non-Operational Wires or Cables* refer to overhead wires or cables that are no longer used for the transmission or delivery of electricity, telecommunications, cable television, or internet services.
- c. *Public Utility Providers* refer to electric power distribution utilities, telecommunications companies, cable television operators, internet service providers, and other entities authorized to install or maintain aerial utility cables.
- d. *Aerial Wires or Cables* refer to utility lines installed above ground using poles, posts, or other overhead infrastructure.

**SEC. 4. Responsibilities of Public Utility Providers.** – All public utility providers covered by this Act shall:

- a. Properly bundle, secure, and maintain sagging or dangling aerial utility wires and cables;
- b. Remove all non-operational or abandoned wires and cables attached to poles, posts, or other overhead infrastructure;
- c. Ensure that aerial wires and cables comply with the minimum safety clearance standards prescribed by relevant government agencies;
- d. Relocate, repair, or replace damaged poles or posts that contribute to unsafe or improperly positioned overhead wires; and
- e. Conduct periodic inspections and maintenance of aerial utility infrastructure within their service areas.

**SEC. 5. Compliance Period.** - All public utility providers shall comply with the requirements of this Act within one (1) year from its effectivity. Thereafter, continuous maintenance and removal of non-operational wires shall be undertaken as part of regular infrastructure management.

1           **SEC. 6. *Enforcement and Monitoring.*** - Local government units (LGUs)  
2 shall monitor and ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act within their  
3 respective jurisdictions. LGUs may conduct inspections and coordinate with  
4 national regulatory agencies in identifying violations and enforcing corrective  
5 actions.

6           **SEC. 7. *Penalties.***

- 7           a. Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act that  
8 fail to comply with the requirements of Section 3 of this Act shall pay a  
9 fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) for each  
10 day of non-compliance, computed from the time of filing of the complaint  
11 to the proper authority.
- 12           b. Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act that  
13 fail to comply with the requirements of Section 4 and 5 of this Act shall  
14 pay a fine of not less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00)  
15 The Head of Agency and other concerned officials of the LGU who fail  
16 to comply with the requirements of Section 5 of this Act shall be liable  
17 for administrative sanctions.
- 18           c. Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act whose  
19 installation or relocation of its wires or cables caused any damage to  
20 property or injury to persons shall shoulder the full costs of the damage  
21 and/or medical expenses incurred as a result thereof, and pay a fine of not  
22 less than double the amount of such costs.
- 23           d. The LGU concerned may suspend or revoke the permits of any public  
24 utility company and similar entities covered by this Act for any violations  
25 of this Act.

26           **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days  
27 from the effectivity of this Act, the National Telecommunications Commission, in  
28 coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology,

1 the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and other relevant agencies,  
2 shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective  
3 implementation of this Act.

4 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations or part  
5 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
6 modified accordingly.

7 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or  
8 provisions of this Act are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or  
9 provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain to be in full force and  
10 effect.

11 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
12 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general  
13 circulation.

*Approved,*