

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. **9371**

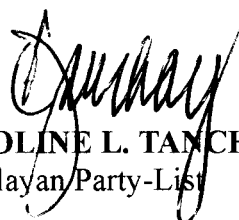
Introduced by
KAMALAYAN PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE CAROLINE TANCHAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines consistently faces some of the highest electricity rates in Southeast Asia. While Republic Act No. 9513, or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, introduced Net-Metering to encourage residential RE adoption, the administrative hurdles — including, among others, the requirement for a Certificate of Final Electrical Inspection (CFEI), distribution utility (DU) technical studies, and the mandatory installation of bi-directional meters — have made small-scale solar adoption hard, if not prohibitive, for the average Filipino household.

In many jurisdictions, such as the European Union and various states in the U.S., “Plug-in Solar” or “Balcony Solar” has been legalized to bypass these barriers. These systems allow consumers to plug a small and very affordable solar kit directly into a standard wall outlet, instantly reducing the household’s grid consumption without complex rewiring.

This bill seeks to institutionalize “Plug-in Solar” in the Philippines by setting a introductory safety-compliant threshold of 1,300 Watts (1,300 W). Below this initial limit, systems shall be classified as “Plug-in Appliances” rather than “Electrical Installations,” exempting them from local government permits and various tedious application process, provided that they are to be used for self-consumption. This empowers ordinary citizens to contribute to energy self-sufficiency and immediate poverty's alleviation through lower utility costs.


CAROLINE L. TANCHAY
Kamalayan Party-List

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**AN ACT PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF PLUG-IN SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS
FOR SELF-CONSUMPTION, ESTABLISHING THE SAFETY AND REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK THEREFOR, AND EXEMPTING SMALL-SCALE SYSTEMS FROM
PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS**

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 “*Plug-in Solar Act of 2026*.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the utilization of renewable energy and to protect the right of the ordinary Filipino people to energy self-sufficiency. The State shall remove administrative and regulatory barriers that hinder the adoption of small-scale renewable energy systems by residential consumers.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. –

- a) ***Certificate of Final Electrical Inspection (CFEI)*** – The document issued by the Office of the Building Official (OBO) of a Local Government Unit (LGU) certifying that the electrical installation of a building or structure complies with the Philippine Electrical Code and other safety regulations.
- b) ***Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)*** – The executive department of the Philippine government tasked as the main economic catalyst that enables innovative, competitive, job-generating, and inclusive business, and responsible for the certification and standardization of consumer electronics and appliances.
- c) ***Distribution Utility (DU)*** – Any electric cooperative, private corporation, government-owned utility, or local government unit which has a franchise to operate a distribution system in accordance with Republic Act No. 9136 (EPIRA).

- d) **Local Government Unit (LGU)** – The political subdivision of the State at the provincial, city, or municipal level, responsible for issuing building and occupancy permits.
- e) **Plug-in Solar Energy System (PSES)** – A small-scale solar photovoltaic system consisting of one or more panels and a micro-inverter designed to be connected directly to a standard branch circuit via a conventional wall outlet.
- f) **Self-Consumption** – The use of solar energy for the consumer’s own electricity requirements within the premises where the PSES is installed.

SECTION 4. Introductory Threshold and Exemptions. – Any PSES with a maximum alternating current (AC) output capacity of Eight Hundred Watts (1,300W) or less shall be classified as a “Consumer Appliance.” As such, these systems shall be entitled to the following:

- a) Installation and operation shall not require a Building Permit, Electrical Permit, or Certificate of Final Electrical Inspection (CFEI), Homeowner Association’s Clearance, or any similar permit/clearance, from any Local Government Unit (LGU) and/or Associations.
- b) The owner shall not be required to enter into a Net-Metering Agreement or any agreement or technical connection study with the Distribution Utility (DU).
- c) DUs shall not compel the replacement of existing meters for the operation of a 1,300W PSES, provided that the consumer shall not seek credit for exported power.

SECTION 5. Safety Standards and Requirements. – To ensure public safety, all PSES sold and operated under this Act must comply with the following:

- a) The micro-inverter and solar panels must be certified by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and/or equivalent international standards.
- b) The consumer shall ensure that the PSES is used primarily for self-consumption. Any accidental injection of power to the grid under the 1,300W limit shall not be penalized by the DU, but neither shall it be compensated.
- c) While no permit is required, the consumer must ensure the household’s branch circuit and convenience outlet used for the PSES are in good working condition.

SECTION 6. Role of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). – The DOE shall within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the simplified guidelines for the voluntary registration of these systems for data monitoring purposes only.

The DOE and ERC shall jointly and regularly monitor the impact of PSES adoption on the stability of the national grid and the safety of residential electrical systems. Every two (2) years, or as deemed necessary by technical findings, the DOE and ERC, based on the prevailing implementing rules and regulations of the DOE, may increase the maximum AC output capacity threshold defined in Section 4 based on improvements in grid and distribution system’s technology, smart metering, and residential wiring standards.

SECTION 7. Prohibited Acts. – DUs are prohibited from disconnecting service or imposing any form of penalty or fine on consumers solely for the usage of a certified 1,300W PSES. Any DU found in violation shall be fined by the ERC in an amount not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PHP 100,000.00) per instance.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,