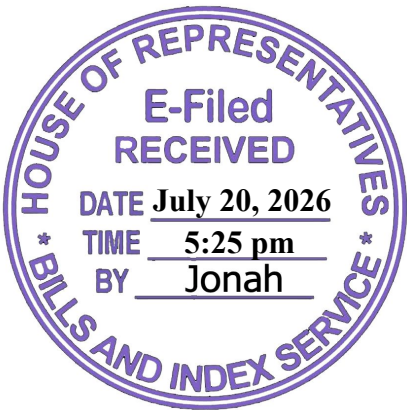


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS



Second Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 10132

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

Explanatory Note

The digital transformation of government and regulated private sectors has become a cornerstone of national development. Fragmented systems, duplicative databases, and vendor-dependent technologies have long hampered efficiency, interoperability, and citizen trust in digital services.

This bill seeks to institutionalize **Architectural Domain Governance** through the establishment of the **Philippine Reference Architecture Framework (Ph-RAF)**. The framework shall serve as the national guide for the governance of business processes, applications, data, technology infrastructure, and information security.

The measure is aligned with the **Department of Information and Communications Technology's National ICT Ecosystem Framework (NIEF)** and **E-Government Master Plan (EGMP)**, the **National Privacy Commission's Data Privacy Act of 2012**, and the **Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028**, which emphasizes digital transformation, innovation, and inclusive governance.

By mandating technology independence, interoperability, business continuity, and privacy-by-design, this Act will reduce inefficiencies, strengthen cybersecurity, and promote citizen-centered digital services. It will also ensure that government ICT projects and covered private organizations adhere to common standards, thereby safeguarding public data and enhancing transparency and accountability.

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

JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO



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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING ARCHITECTURAL DOMAIN GOVERNANCE IN
GOVERNMENT AND COVERED PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, ESTABLISHING THE
PHILIPPINE REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE FRAMEWORK, AND PROVIDING FOR
ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING DICT POLICIES,
NATIONAL PRIVACY COMMISSION MANDATES, AND THE PHILIPPINE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1
2 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the “**Architectural Domain**
3 **Governance Act of 2026.**”

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to foster
5 a secure, interoperable, citizen-centered, and future-ready digital governance
6 environment. In pursuit of this policy, the State shall establish a national reference
7 architecture framework that shall guide the governance of business processes,
8 applications, data, technology infrastructure, and information security.

9 The implementation of this Act shall be consistent with the **National ICT Ecosystem**
10 **Framework (NIEF)**, the **E-Government Master Plan (EGMP)** of the Department of
11 Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the **Data Privacy Act of 2012** and
12 issuances of the National Privacy Commission (NPC), and the **Philippine Development**
13 **Plan 2023–2028.**

14 **SEC. 3. Scope and Coverage.** - This Act shall apply to all departments, bureaus,
15 offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the National Government, including
16 government-owned or controlled corporations, government financial institutions, and
17 state universities and colleges, as well as local government units.

18 Covered private organizations that collect, store, process, transmit, or use public data, or
19 provide essential public-facing services, shall likewise be subject to the provisions of this
20 Act, in coordination with their respective regulators and the DICT.

21 **SEC. 4. Lead Implementing Agency.** - The DICT shall serve as the lead
22 implementing agency of this Act. In the exercise of this mandate, it shall coordinate with
23 the NPC, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the National Economic and

Development Authority (NEDA), the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC), and other relevant agencies to ensure harmonized implementation.

SEC. 5. Establishment of the Philippine Reference Architecture Framework. - There is hereby established a **Philippine Reference Architecture Framework (Ph-RAF)**, which shall serve as the national guide for the governance, design, development, procurement, maintenance, and integration of systems involving public data and public-facing digital services.

The Ph-RAF shall prescribe principles and standards for interoperability, portability, technology independence, business continuity, disaster recovery, accessibility, usability, cybersecurity, and privacy-by-design. It shall likewise provide templates and reference models for business, application, data, technology infrastructure, and information security domains.

SEC. 6. Governance Principles. - All systems, platforms, and digital services covered by this Act shall adhere to the following principles:

1. Technology independence and avoidance of vendor lock-in;
2. Business continuity and resilience against disruptions;
3. Secure and reliable interoperability;
4. Accessibility and inclusivity in public-facing services;
5. Security and privacy embedded by design;
6. Transparency and accountability in architecture-related decisions; and
7. Cohesive yet loosely coupled governance across domains.

SEC. 7. Philippine Architecture Governance Council. - There is hereby created a **Philippine Architecture Governance Council** under the DICT, composed of representatives from relevant agencies, regulators, LGUs, and stakeholders. The Council shall recommend updates to the Ph-RAF, issue governance policies, coordinate implementation, monitor compliance, and submit annual reports to Congress.

SEC. 8. Implementation Roadmap. - The DICT, in coordination with the Council, shall prepare a **five-year phased roadmap** for implementation, aligned with the Philippine Development Plan. The roadmap shall include:

- Year 1: Design and deployment of the compliance management system;
- Year 2: Rollout of data architecture standards;
- Year 3: Rollout of business architecture standards;
- Year 4: Rollout of application and infrastructure standards;
- Year 5: Rollout of information security standards.

SEC. 9. Compliance and Monitoring. – No government ICT project shall proceed to full implementation unless it has obtained a certification of compliance with the Philippine Reference Architecture Framework (Ph-RAF) standards or an approved exception from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Covered private organizations shall likewise align their governance structures with the Ph-RAF, subject to the principles of proportionality and phased implementation.

In determining compliance, the DICT shall consider whether the proposed project avoids unnecessary duplication of existing systems, is capable of securely exchanging information with other government systems were permitted by law, minimizes

unnecessary dependence on a single vendor, platform, or proprietary technology, and is capable of maintaining continuity of operations during emergencies, disasters, or system failures.

The DICT, in coordination with the appropriate regulatory agencies, shall monitor compliance with this Act and its implementing rules and regulations, require corrective action plans where necessary, and impose appropriate sanctions in accordance with existing laws and due process.

SEC. 11. Use of Common Standards and Reusable Digital Tools. - The DICT shall promote the use of common standards, reusable templates, shared services, and approved digital tools to prevent unnecessary duplication and reduce government spending on separate systems with similar functions.

Government agencies shall first determine whether an existing approved system, shared service, template, or reusable digital tool may be used before developing, procuring, or commissioning a new system.

Nothing in this section shall prevent an agency from developing or procuring a separate system when justified by law, security, operational requirements, cost, public interest, or the specific needs of the agency.

SEC. 12. User-Friendly and Inclusive Digital Services. - Public-facing digital services covered by this Act shall be designed and implemented in a manner that is secure, accessible, and understandable.

The DICT shall issue guidelines to ensure that public-facing digital services take into account the needs of persons with disabilities, senior citizens, persons with limited digital literacy.

Covered agencies shall, whenever practicable, provide clear instructions, simple language, feedback mechanisms, and alternative assistance channels for users who are unable to fully access or use digital services.

SEC. 10. Data Privacy and Security. - Implementation of this Act shall be consistent with the **Data Privacy Act of 2012**, cybersecurity laws, records management rules, freedom of information policies, and other applicable statutes. Nothing herein shall authorize the disclosure of personal, confidential, or proprietary information except as lawfully required.

SEC. 11. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DICT. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in coordination with the Department of Finance, and the Department of Budget and Management, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. Transitory Provisions. - Covered agencies and organizations shall be given a reasonable transition period, as provided in the implementing rules and regulations, to comply with this Act.

Existing systems shall not be required to be immediately replaced, but upgrades, integrations, and new projects involving public data shall be aligned with Ph-RAF within one year from the publication of the IRR.

SEC. 13. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved.