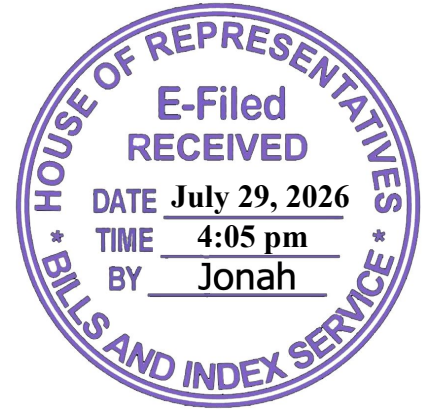


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10384



INTRODUCED BY **HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Language is the fundamental medium through which we communicate, interact, and forge a common national identity. The Philippines, being an archipelagic nation, is home to many distinct languages and dialects spoken throughout the country. While regions may differ in language, our common Filipino identity and our commitment to the country remains undivided.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the people's right to information, particularly on matters of public concern. Language also serves as an important tool for instruction on public services, for transparency in government actions, and for accountability in holding institutions answerable to the citizens they serve. However, this right can only be meaningfully exercised when the information is communicated in a language the people understand.

Despite this Constitutional guarantee, numerous government documents remain inaccessible due to overly technical, formal, or otherwise complicated language. This makes it difficult for the public to understand and take part in government processes and public affairs, leaving many unable to access important information and basic public services.

This bill seeks to address this communication gap by mandating all government offices, including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), to employ plain language or appropriate local language translations or dialect in all communications intended for the public.

It likewise aims to ensure universal accessibility of government information, promote transparency in public transactions, and enable the citizenry to make informed decisions regarding matters of public concern.

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


JANICE V. DEGAMO
Representative, 3rd District, Negros Oriental

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10384

Introduced by **HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO**

AN ACT

**PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION
AND TRANSPARENCY BY REQUIRING THE USE OF PLAIN LANGUAGE
AND LOCAL LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OR DIALECT IN ALL
GOVERNMENT ISSUED PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, ADVISORIES, AND
OTHER SIMILAR DOCUMENTS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC
DISSEMINATION**

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “ *Accessible Government Communications Through Plain Language Act of 2026*”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold the Constitutional mandate recognizing the vital role of communication in nation building and affirming the fundamental right of the people to information on matters of public concerns.

The State further recognizes that transparency in governance is essential to public trust and accountability, and that this transparency can be meaningfully achieved when government information is communicated in a manner that is clear, accessible, and comprehensible to the general public.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. - The following terms, for the purposes of this Act, shall be defined as follows:

- a) “Dialect” refers to a regional variety of language distinguished by features of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation from other regional varieties and constituting together with them a single language.
- b) “Government agencies” refers to all government departments, bureaus, divisions, attached agencies, and government-owned and controlled corporations.
- c) “Language” refers to a system of conventional spoken, manual (signed), or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves.

- d) Plain Language” also known as “Plain Writing” refers to writing and preparations thereof that are clear, concise, well-organized, and follow other best practices appropriate to the subject or filed and intended audience or constituents.

Section 4. Plain Language in Public Service- All government agencies, local government units, and government-owned and controlled-corporations (GOCCs) are hereby mandated to use plain language in Filipino, English, and / or regional languages or dialects in all their communications and in the implementation of their basic functions, mandates, and services. For this purposes, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) is hereby tasked with the duty of monitoring and ensuring the implementation of this plain language requirements. For GOCCs, the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) shall be the agency tasked to perform this duty.

Section 5. Scope of Application.- The use of plain language and translation shall be made, including, but not limited to, the following documents:

- 1) Citizen’s Charter
- 2) Advisories;
- 3) Notices;
- 4) Announcements;
- 5) Forms and other papers for the application, request, or enjoyment of a public service, right, privilege, benefit, license, clearance, permit, etc.;
- 6) Documents detailing and explaining government programs, activity, or projects;
- 7) Any other document that the CSC or the GCG as the case may be, in consultation with the agency or office concerned, deems as important to be included in this Act’s Coverage.

Section 6. Capacity Building.- The CSC and GCG shall regularly conduct training, seminars, and other similar capacity-building activities for the offices and agencies covered by this Act. For plain language in Filipino and translation in Filipino and other regional dialects, the Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino (KWF) shall be tapped to facilitate the necessary capacity-building activities.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CSC and the GCG, in coordination with the KWF, the Philippine Information Agency, and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders including civil society organizations and people’s organizations, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. Separability Clause.- If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause.- All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,