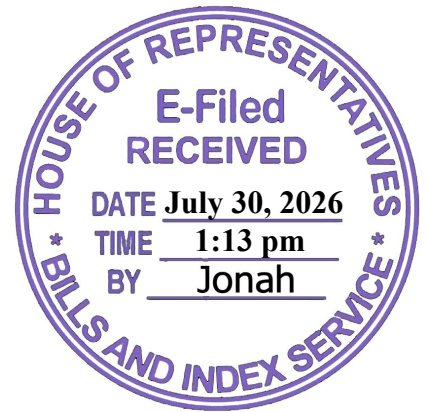


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10444**



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
TO ENSURE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF WEBSITES, DIGITAL PLATFORMS,
MOBILE APPLICATIONS, AND ELECTRONIC SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, persons with disabilities continue to face significant barriers to full participation in an increasingly digital society. According to the National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA), as of July 2026, about three (3) million Filipinos are registered as persons with disabilities — 1,072,692 with physical disability, 459,759 with speech impairment, 415,547 with psychosocial disability, and 315,642 with visual disability.¹

The consequences of this gap are measurable. In 2020, the Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation (DARE) Index, compiled by the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict), scored the Philippines 53 out of 100, reflecting comparatively strong legal commitments but weak institutional capacity and outcomes. The country registered only 18 of a possible 50 points across ten (10) measured areas of ICT accessibility, and to date, no agency holds an exclusive mandate over accessible ICTs².

This exclusion runs against the highest law of the land. Article XIII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "[t]he Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good." Section 13 of the same Article goes further, mandating that the State establish a special agency for persons with disabilities to support their rehabilitation, self-development, self-reliance, and integration into the mainstream of society.

¹ Data from National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) as of 06 July 2026. Retrieved from: <https://ncda.gov.ph/>

² G3ict (2020). Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation Index. Retrieved from: <https://g3ict.org/country-profile/philippines>

The Philippines has also undertaken this commitment internationally. It ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) on April 15, 2008, and Article 9 thereof obligates the State to ensure that persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to information and communications technologies (ICT) and other services open to the public.

Domestically, this constitutional and treaty-level commitment is carried through Republic Act No. 7277, the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, as amended, which mandates that persons with disabilities be afforded equal opportunity in education, employment, and access to public facilities and services³. It is further operationalized through a series of administrative issuances, chief among them are the 2010 ICTO-NCDA Joint Memorandum Circular on web accessibility⁴ and DICT Memorandum Circular No. 004, Series of 2017⁵, which adopted the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 as the technical standard for government websites.

DICT M.C No. 004, in particular, requires the use of alternative text for non-text content, captions and transcripts for multimedia, and descriptive links and headings; mandates regular accessibility audits against WCAG 2.0; and requires each government agency to stand up its own web accessibility compliance team. These issuances have laid meaningful technical groundwork, but they remain administrative circulars rather than statute.

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 was developed through the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) process, in cooperation with individuals, organizations, and governments worldwide, to provide a single, shared standard for web content accessibility⁶. WCAG explains how to make web "content", natural information such as text, images, and sound; the code or markup defining structure and presentation; and dynamic content, multimedia, mobile applications, and AI-driven web interfaces, accessible to persons with disabilities⁷.

WCAG rests on four principles: content must be (1) perceivable, presentable to users through means they can sense; (2) operable, not requiring interaction a user cannot perform; (3) understandable, with information and interface operation that users can comprehend; and (4) robust, interpretable reliably across a wide range of user agents, including assistive technologies, even as those technologies evolve⁸.

Thus, this proposed measure.

³ Chapter 6, Sections 25-28

⁴ Dated 29 June 2010

⁵ Dated 12 May 2017

⁶ Henry, S.L (26 May 2026). WCAG 2 Overview. Retrieved from: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/#:~:text=This%20page%20introduces%20the%20Web,WCAG%202.1%2C%20and%20WCAG%202.2.>

⁷ id

⁸ Accessibility Guidelines Working Group (AG WG) Participants. (15 July 2025). Introduction to Understanding WCAG 2.2. Web Accessibility Initiative. Retrieved from: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG22/Understanding/intro#understanding-the-four-principles-of-accessibility>

This proposed Digital Accessibility Act intends to close the gap between the international technical standard and the country's legal framework by enacting, for the first time, a stand-alone statute that squarely covers digital accessibility. It adopts WCAG 2.2 Level AA as the minimum enforceable standard for all covered entities—national and local government agencies, government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and private establishments offering goods and services to the public through digital means, including banks, e-commerce platforms, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and telecommunications and broadcast companies. It requires covered entities to integrate accessibility into the full lifecycle of digital products and services, from procurement through maintenance; establishes graduated compliance periods calibrated to entity size; and creates a coordinated enforcement framework led by the DICT, in partnership with the NCDA, combining administrative penalties and criminal liability for willful non-compliance.

By anchoring digital accessibility obligations in statute rather than administrative circular, and by establishing a lead agency with clear audit and sanction authority, this bill directly responds to the monitoring and enforcement gaps identified by the UN CRPD Committee and international benchmarking bodies alike. It builds on, rather than displaces, existing measures such as the Filipino Sign Language Act⁹, the closed-captioning law¹⁰, and the Accessibility Law¹¹, and ensures that as the Philippines' digital infrastructure continues to expand under recent measures such as the E-Governance Act¹² and the Konektadong Pinoy Act¹³, no Filipino is left behind on account of disability.

This bill was crafted after consultations with multiple stakeholders in various groups of persons with disabilities and advocacy networks.

Early approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


LEILA M. DE LIMA

⁹ Republic Act No. 11106 (30 October 2018)

¹⁰ Republic Act No. 10905 (21 July 2016)

¹¹ Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 (25 February 1983)

¹² Republic Act No. 12254 (05 September 2025)

¹³ Republic Act No. 12234 (24 August 2025)

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DISABILITIES

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

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the “Digital Accessibility Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Pursuant to the Constitution, Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities", as amended, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), particularly concerning accessibility, independent living, community inclusion, and freedom of opinion and expression, including access to information, the State shall adopt and implement measures to eliminate digital barriers and promote equal access to information and communications technology (ICT), digital products, services, electronic communications, and digital content.

Towards this end, the State shall promote universal design, ensure reasonable accommodation where appropriate, and establish an accessible, inclusive, usable, and responsive digital environment. This environment shall enable the full participation of persons with disabilities in education, employment, government services, commerce, culture, civic engagement, and all other aspects of public life.

The State likewise recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, civil society organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, academic institutions,

1 and other stakeholders in advancing digital accessibility. Accordingly, the State shall
2 encourage their active participation in developing, implementing, monitoring, and
3 continuously improving policies, programs, standards, and initiatives under this Act.

4
5 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The objectives of this Act are as follows:

6
7 (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy equal access to and use
8 of information and communications technologies, digital products, services,
9 platforms, electronic communications, and digital content on an equal basis
10 with others;

11 (b) Promote universal design and accessibility as fundamental
12 requirements in the development and provision of digital technologies, while
13 ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation where appropriate;

14 (c) Uphold the rights of persons with disabilities to privacy, security,
15 safety, and protection in their use of digital technologies and services;

16 (d) Promote collaboration among government agencies, local
17 government units, the private sector, civil society organizations, organizations
18 of persons with disabilities, academic institutions, and other stakeholders in
19 advancing digital accessibility; and

20 (e) Establish a coordinated, inclusive, and accountable framework for
21 the adoption, implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of digital
22 accessibility standards across the public and private sectors.

23
24 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

25
26 (a) Accessibility – Refers to the condition in which environments,
27 information, communications, information and communications technologies
28 (ICT), products, services, and systems are designed, developed, maintained,
29 and provided to eliminate obstacles and barriers and enable persons with
30 disabilities to access, perceive, understand, navigate, interact with, and use
31 them on an equal basis with others;

32
33 (b) Accessibility Barriers – Refers to obstacles, limitations, or conditions
34 in physical spaces and within digital products, services, content, platforms,
35 information and communications technologies, or systems that prevent or
36 restrict persons with disabilities from perceiving, accessing, navigating,
37 interacting with, understanding, or using them effectively and on an equal
38 basis with others. These may include structural, technical, informational,
39 communicational, or design barriers;

40
41 (c) Accessibility Features – Refers to the functionalities, characteristics,
42 or technical components of digital products, services, content, platforms, or
43 information and communications technologies that enable persons with

1 disabilities to perceive, operate, understand, navigate, interact with, and use
2 them effectively and on an equal basis with others;

3
4 (d) Assistive Technology – Refers to any item, piece of equipment,
5 software, service, or product system used to increase, maintain, or improve
6 the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities in accessing, interacting
7 with, or using digital systems;

8
9 (e) Automated Testing Tools – Refers to software applications,
10 programs, or scripts designed to automatically evaluate digital interfaces, code
11 structures, or content components to identify potential technical non-
12 conformities with accessibility requirements without direct human intervention;

13
14 (f) Cognitive and Learning Impairments – Refers to long-term
15 impairments affecting one or more cognitive functions, including attention,
16 memory, learning, language, reading, writing, reasoning, perception,
17 executive functioning, or problem-solving, which, in interaction with various
18 barriers, may hinder a person's ability to access, understand, navigate,
19 interact with, or use digital information, communications, technologies,
20 products, or services on an equal basis with others;

21
22 (g) Communication – Includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile
23 communication, large print, accessible multimedia, written communication,
24 audio, plain-language formats, human readers, and augmentative and
25 alternative modes, means, and formats of communication;

26
27 (h) Covered Entity – Refers to any national government agency, local
28 government unit, government-owned or -controlled corporation, private
29 enterprise, utility provider, online platform, or foreign juridical entity offering
30 digital products or services within the Philippines, as comprehensively
31 enumerated under Section 5 of this Act;

32
33 (i) Disability – Refers to the evolving concept resulting from the
34 interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal, environmental,
35 institutional, communication, technological, and other barriers that hinder their
36 full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;

37
38 (j) Digital Accessibility – Refers to the design, development,
39 procurement, maintenance, and continuous improvement of digital products,
40 services, platforms, content, and information and communications
41 technologies to ensure that they are perceivable, operable, understandable,
42 and robust, enabling persons with disabilities to access, navigate, interact
43 with, and use them effectively and on an equal basis with others;

1 (k) Digital Means – Refers to the use of information and
2 communications technologies (ICT), electronic systems, digital platforms,
3 software applications, websites, mobile applications, online services,
4 electronic communications, digital documents, connected devices, and other
5 current or emerging technologies to create, process, store, transmit, access,
6 deliver, or exchange information, products, or services;
7

8 (l) Discrimination on the Basis of Disability – Refers to any distinction,
9 exclusion, or restriction on the basis of disability that has the purpose or effect
10 of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal
11 basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the
12 political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field. It includes all forms
13 of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation;
14

15 (m) Emerging Technologies – Refers to new, rapidly developing, or
16 evolving technologies that are not yet widely adopted or fully established but
17 have the potential to significantly influence digital systems, products, services,
18 communication, or access to information, including artificial intelligence,
19 extended reality, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), advanced automation,
20 and other future technological innovations;
21

22 (n) Essential Public Service – Refers to any government service, public
23 function, or service provided, regulated, funded, or authorized by government
24 or provided by private entities that is necessary for the enjoyment of rights,
25 participation in society, or access to basic goods and services, including
26 healthcare, education, social protection, employment, transportation,
27 telecommunications, financial services, public utilities, emergency services,
28 public information, and other services delivered through digital or non-digital
29 means;
30

31 (o) Impairment – Refers to a difference, limitation, or loss in bodily
32 structures or functions, including physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, or
33 cognitive functions, which, in interaction with various barriers, may result in
34 disability;
35

36 (p) Inclusive – Refers to the design, development, delivery, and
37 operation of environments, products, services, programmes, information,
38 communications, and technologies in a manner that ensures the full and
39 effective participation of all persons, including persons with disabilities, on an
40 equal basis with others through the identification and removal of barriers and
41 the promotion of accessibility, equality, dignity, and non-discrimination;
42

43 (q) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) – Refers to a
44 diverse set of technological tools, systems, devices, networks, and resources

1 used to transmit, store, create, process, share, or exchange information
2 through electronic means;

3
4 (r) Motor Impairment – Refers to a long-term impairment affecting a
5 person's movement, coordination, dexterity, strength, endurance, or control of
6 bodily movements, which may affect interaction with digital systems and
7 technologies;

8
9 (s) Multiple Impairment – Refers to the presence of two or more distinct
10 impairments that may result in combined or additional accessibility needs;

11
12 (t) Persons with Disabilities– Refers to persons who have long-term
13 physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with
14 various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on
15 an equal basis with others;

16
17 (u) Reasonable Accommodation – Refers to necessary and appropriate
18 modifications and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue
19 burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure persons with disabilities
20 the enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights
21 and fundamental freedoms;

22
23 (v) Screen Reader – Refers to specialized software or technology that
24 converts digital text, interface elements, and information into synthesized
25 speech or refreshable Braille output to enable access by persons who are
26 blind or have low vision;

27
28 (w) Sensory Impairment – Refers to an impairment affecting one or
29 more sensory functions, including vision, hearing, balance, or related sensory
30 processing functions, such as blindness, low vision, deafness, hard-of-hearing
31 conditions, or deaf blindness;

32
33 (x) Universal Design – Refers to the design of products, environments,
34 programs, and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent
35 possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design;

36
37 (y) User Testing – Refers to the process of evaluating the usability,
38 accessibility, and effectiveness of digital products, services, content, or
39 technologies by observing and gathering feedback from actual users,
40 including persons with disabilities and users of assistive technologies, to
41 identify barriers, assess accessibility requirements, and improve user
42 experience;

(z) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) – Refers to the internationally recognized technical guidelines for web accessibility developed and maintained by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), which establish principles and success criteria for making digital content accessible, including being perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust.

SEC. 5. *Scope.* – This Act shall apply to:

(a) All national government agencies, departments, bureaus, offices, instrumentalities, constitutional commissions, state universities and colleges (SUCs), government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs), local government units (LGUs), and all other government entities, including their official websites, web applications, mobile applications, digital platforms, electronic services, information systems, self-service technologies, digital publications, electronic documents, audiovisual materials, digital communications, and other digital content or services provided to the public;

(b) All private entities that own, operate, lease, or manage places of public accommodation or provide goods or services to the public through digital means, including, but not limited to:

- i. Places of lodging;
- ii. Establishments serving food or beverages;
- iii. Places of exhibition, entertainment, or recreation;
- iv. Public assembly venues;
- v. Retail establishments and shopping services;
- vi. Financial institutions, banks, insurance companies, investment firms, and payment service providers;
- vii. Healthcare providers, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, laboratories, and other health facilities;
- viii. Educational institutions, training centers, libraries, digital learning platforms, learning management systems, and providers of educational technologies;
- ix. Public transportation operators and providers of passenger transport services;
- x. Professional offices and providers of legal, accounting, engineering, architectural, medical, and other professional services;
- xi. Telecommunications, broadcasting, media, internet service providers (ISPs), and other electronic communications service providers;
- xii. Public utilities and providers of electricity, water, sanitation, waste management, and similar essential services;

- 1 xiii. Employment and recruitment platforms;
2 xiv. E-commerce platforms, online marketplaces, digital
3 marketplaces, and other online intermediaries; and
4 xv. Such other entities that offer goods, services, programs, or
5 activities to the public through digital platforms or information and
6 communications technologies;
7

8 (c) Software developers, web designers, systems architects, and
9 technology service providers, whether operating as local in-house personnel,
10 domestic corporate entities, or external third-party vendors and independent
11 contractors, who are engaged to design, build, test, deploy, or maintain
12 digital platforms, websites, mobile applications, or electronic services for any
13 covered entity;
14

15 (d) Any person, corporation, partnership, association, or other juridical
16 entity organized or registered under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction that
17 offers, provides, supplies, or makes available digital products, digital
18 services, applications, platforms, subscriptions, software, or other
19 information and communications technology to persons located in the
20 Philippines, whether directly or through distributors, agents, affiliates,
21 resellers, digital marketplaces, subscription-based services, or any other
22 commercial arrangement; and
23

24 (e) Such other entities as may be determined by the implementing
25 agency, consistent with the objectives of this Act.
26

27 CHAPTER II: RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE DIGITAL 28 ENVIRONMENT 29

30 SEC. 6. *Accessibility Rights and Non-Discrimination.* – Persons with disabilities
31 shall have the right to access, use, and benefit from information and communications
32 technologies, digital products, services, digital platforms, electronic communications,
33 and digital content on an equal basis with others.
34

35 No person with a disability shall be denied access to, excluded from
36 participation in, or otherwise discriminated against in any digital product, service,
37 platform, program, or activity covered by this Act on the basis of disability.
38

39 In furtherance of these rights, persons with disabilities shall be entitled to:
40

41 (a) Equal and effective access to digital products, services,
42 information and communications technologies, digital platforms, and digital
43 content that are accessible, usable, understandable, operable, and
44 compatible with assistive technologies;

1 (b) Freedom from discrimination on the basis of disability in the
2 design, development, procurement, acquisition, operation, maintenance,
3 and delivery of digital technologies, products, services, and digital
4 environments;

5
6 (c) Receive information, communications, and digital content in
7 accessible formats and through accessible means of communication, in a
8 timely manner and without additional cost on account of disability;

9
10 (d) Use assistive technologies, accessibility features, and reasonable
11 accommodations necessary to effectively access and use digital products
12 and services without being denied access or subjected to unjustified
13 restrictions;

14
15 (e) Access digital products and services through authentication,
16 identity verification, and security mechanisms that are accessible to persons
17 with disabilities. Covered entities shall provide accessible, secure, and
18 functionally equivalent alternatives where authentication or verification
19 methods rely on visual, auditory, speech, cognitive, dexterity, or movement-
20 based interactions that may not be accessible to persons with disabilities;

21
22 (f) Equal access to digital government services, education,
23 employment, healthcare, financial services, commerce, transportation,
24 justice, emergency services, and all other goods, programs, and services
25 made available through digital means;

26
27 (g) Protection of their privacy, personal data, safety, and security in
28 accordance with applicable laws, including Republic Act No. 10173,
29 otherwise known as the "Data Privacy Act of 2012," while accessing and
30 using digital technologies and services; and

31
32 (h) Effective remedies, including the right to file complaints before the
33 appropriate authorities and seek redress for violations of the rights
34 guaranteed under this Act.

35 36 CHAPTER III: DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

37
38 SEC. 7. *Adoption of Accessibility Frameworks.* – To ensure digital accessibility
39 for persons with disabilities, all covered entities shall ensure that their websites, mobile
40 applications, digital platforms, electronic services, information and communications
41 technology (ICT), digital products, electronic documents, and other digital content and
42 services are designed, developed, procured, acquired, operated, maintained, and
43 updated in accordance with internationally recognized digital accessibility standards.
44

(a) The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2, developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), is hereby adopted as the minimum digital accessibility standard under this Act. All covered digital products and services shall, at a minimum, conform to Level AA of WCAG 2.2 or such subsequent version as may be adopted pursuant to this Act.

(b) The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), relevant government agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities, standards-setting bodies, industry representatives, and other stakeholders, shall periodically review and prescribe the applicable version of the WCAG and may adopt subsequent versions, successor standards, or other internationally recognized digital accessibility standards as may be necessary to keep pace with technological developments: *Provided*, That such standards shall provide a level of accessibility not lower than the requirements established under WCAG 2.2 Level AA or its subsequent adopted version.

(c) The DICT, in coordination with the DOST, NCDA, relevant government agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities, standards-setting bodies, industry representatives, and other stakeholders, may develop and adopt Philippine Digital Accessibility Standards to supplement the requirements of this Act and address local needs, emerging technologies, and sector-specific applications: *Provided*, That such standards shall be consistent with internationally recognized best practices and shall not prescribe accessibility requirements lower than those established under WCAG 2.2 Level AA or its subsequent adopted version.

CHAPTER IV: OBLIGATIONS OF COVERED ENTITIES

SEC. 8. *General Duties of Covered Entities*. – All covered entities shall:

(a) Ensure that their websites, mobile applications, digital platforms, information and communications technology (ICT), digital products, electronic services, digital publications, electronic documents, and other digital content and services comply with the digital accessibility standards prescribed under this Act and its implementing rules and regulations;

(b) Integrate accessibility throughout the planning, design, development, procurement, acquisition, operation, maintenance, and updating of digital products and services to prevent and remove digital accessibility barriers;

1 (c) Provide reasonable accommodation and accessible alternatives,
2 where appropriate, to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal and
3 effective access to digital products and services;
4

5 (d) Establish and maintain an accessible mechanism for receiving
6 complaints, reports, feedback, and requests relating to digital accessibility,
7 and acknowledge and respond to such complaints or concerns within thirty
8 (30) calendar days from receipt thereof; and
9

10 (e) Periodically review and improve the accessibility of their digital
11 products and services to ensure continued compliance with this Act and
12 applicable accessibility standards.
13

14 *SEC. 9. Accessibility Compliance in Lifecycle and Procurement.* – Covered
15 entities shall integrate digital accessibility throughout the lifecycle of their ICT, digital
16 products, services, and content, including planning, design, development,
17 procurement, testing, deployment, operation, maintenance, and updating, in
18 accordance with the standards prescribed under this Act.
19

20 Government agencies, government-owned or -controlled corporations, and
21 other government instrumentalities shall procure, acquire, lease, develop, and
22 maintain only those ICT products, systems, software, applications, and digital services
23 that comply with the digital accessibility standards prescribed under this Act.
24

25 *SEC. 10. Accessibility Assessment and User Testing.* – Covered entities shall
26 periodically assess the accessibility of their digital products and services to ensure
27 continued compliance with this Act.
28

29 Accessibility assessments shall not rely solely on automated testing tools, self-
30 assessments, or technical conformance evaluations. Covered entities shall conduct
31 manual accessibility testing and, where appropriate, usability testing involving persons
32 with disabilities using relevant assistive technologies, and shall meaningfully consult
33 organizations of persons with disabilities in accessibility testing and quality assurance
34 activities.
35

36 *SEC. 11. Cognitive and Inclusive Accessibility.* – Digital accessibility under this
37 Act shall not be limited to compatibility with assistive technologies but shall also
38 promote usability and an inclusive user experience for persons with diverse
39 disabilities, including cognitive, learning, neurological, psychosocial, sensory, and
40 multiple impairments.
41

42 Covered entities shall ensure that digital products and services use clear and
43 understandable language, particularly for government, healthcare, education,

1 financial, emergency, and other essential public services, whenever practicable and
2 appropriate to the intended purpose of the content.

3
4 SEC. 12. *Compliance Periods.* – Covered entities shall comply with the
5 requirements of this Act within the following periods from the effectivity of its
6 implementing rules and regulations:

7
8 (a) National government agencies, constitutional commissions,
9 government-owned or -controlled corporations, government financial
10 institutions, state universities and colleges, and local government units —
11 twelve (12) months;

12
13 (b) Large private entities, as defined under the implementing rules and
14 regulations of this Act — twelve (12) months;

15
16 (c) Medium enterprises — eighteen (18) months; and

17
18 (d) Micro and small enterprises covered by this Act — eighteen (18)
19 months.

20
21 The DICT, in consultation with the NCDA and the Department of Trade and
22 Industry (DTI), shall prescribe the classification of covered private entities, consistent
23 with the criteria established under Republic Act No. 9501, otherwise known as the
24 "Magna Carta for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)."

25
26 SEC. 13. *Undue Burden.* – A covered entity may apply to the DICT for a
27 temporary exemption from a specific accessibility requirement where compliance
28 would impose an undue financial, technical, or operational burden.

29
30 The burden of proving an undue burden shall rest upon the covered entity. Any
31 exemption granted under this section shall be temporary and shall not relieve the
32 covered entity of the obligation to provide an accessible alternative to the maximum
33 extent practicable.

34
35 SEC. 14. *Annual Compliance Report.* – The DICT, in coordination with the
36 NCDA and relevant regulatory agencies, shall prepare and publish an Annual Digital
37 Accessibility Compliance Report on the implementation of this Act.

38
39 The report shall include, at a minimum:

40
41 (a) The overall level of compliance of covered entities with this Act;

42
43 (b) The number and nature of complaints received and their
44 resolution;

1 (c) Common digital accessibility barriers and trends identified through
2 monitoring, inspections, investigations, and accessibility assessments;

3
4 (d) Enforcement actions, compliance orders, administrative penalties,
5 and other regulatory actions undertaken pursuant to this Act;

6
7 (e) Recommendations for improving digital accessibility policies,
8 standards, and implementation; and

9
10 (f) Such other information as may be necessary to evaluate the
11 implementation and effectiveness of this Act.

12
13 The report shall be made publicly available in an accessible format through the
14 official website of the DICT and other appropriate means: *Provided*, That confidential,
15 proprietary, personal, or otherwise protected information shall not be disclosed except
16 as authorized by law.

17
18 CHAPTER V: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

19
20 SEC. 15. *Capacity Development*. – The DICT, in coordination with the NCDA,
21 Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on
22 Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
23 (TESDA), DOST, and other relevant agencies, shall develop and implement programs
24 to strengthen institutional capacity for digital accessibility in both the public and private
25 sectors.

26
27 Such programs may include training, technical assistance, development of
28 guidance materials, and other initiatives necessary to support compliance with this
29 Act.

30
31 SEC. 16. *Professional Development*. – The State shall promote the
32 development and recognition of competencies in digital accessibility by encouraging
33 education, training, research, certification, and continuing professional development
34 for government personnel, information and communications technology professionals,
35 designers, developers, content creators, procurement officers, quality assurance
36 personnel, educators, and other relevant practitioners.

37
38 The DICT may recognize nationally or internationally accepted digital
39 accessibility certifications and competency frameworks and may establish qualification
40 standards for personnel performing digital accessibility functions in government.

41
42 CHAPTER VI: ENFORCEMENT, REMEDIES, AND LIABILITIES

1 SEC. 17. *Complaint, Investigation, and Administrative Enforcement.* – Any
2 person who is denied the rights guaranteed under this Act or encounters a digital
3 accessibility barrier may file a complaint with the DICT, the NCDA, or the appropriate
4 regulatory agency having jurisdiction over the covered entity.

5
6 The DICT, in coordination with the NCDA and appropriate regulatory agencies,
7 shall establish accessible and effective mechanisms for the receipt, investigation,
8 mediation, and resolution of complaints and may conduct accessibility audits,
9 inspections, or investigations to determine compliance with this Act.

10
11 Where a violation is found, the implementing agency shall issue a Notice of
12 Non-Compliance identifying the accessibility deficiencies and directing the covered
13 entity to undertake corrective measures within a reasonable period. Failure to comply
14 without justifiable cause shall constitute grounds for the imposition of administrative
15 penalties under this Act.

16
17 SEC. 18. *Civil Remedies and Private Right of Action.* – Nothing in this Act shall
18 prevent an aggrieved person from instituting the appropriate civil or administrative
19 action before the proper court, tribunal, or government agency to enforce the rights
20 guaranteed under this Act.

21
22 A person who is denied equal access to a digital product or service, excluded
23 from participation, or otherwise subjected to digital discrimination in violation of this
24 Act may seek appropriate relief, including:

25
26 (a) An order requiring the removal of accessibility barriers or the
27 provision of accessible alternatives;

28 (b) Injunctive relief to prevent or remedy continuing violations;

29 (c) Recovery of actual, moral, nominal, or exemplary damages, where
30 warranted under existing laws, and reimbursement of reasonable litigation
31 expenses, including attorney's fees and costs of suit, where authorized by
32 existing laws or ordered by the court;

33 (d) Such other relief as may be just and equitable under the
34 circumstances.

35
36 SEC. 19. *Administrative Penalties.* – After due notice and hearing, a covered
37 entity that fails to comply with this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, or a final
38 compliance order shall be subject to the following administrative penalties:

39
40 (a) First violation – A written warning and an order directing full
41 compliance within a specified period, which shall not exceed six (6) months from
42 the date of issuance, subject to the technical complexity, operational impact,
43 and public significance of the non-compliant digital asset as determined by the
44 implementing agency;

(b) Second violation – An administrative fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) but not more than five hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00);

(c) Third and subsequent violations – An administrative fine of not less than five hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00), without prejudice to the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of any government-issued license, permit, accreditation, registration, franchise, or authority to operate, where authorized under applicable laws.

Where the violation is committed by a juridical entity, the appropriate regulatory agency may likewise recommend or impose the temporary suspension of its digital operations, the blocking or deactivation of its websites or electronic platforms within the Philippine jurisdiction, or the removal of its mobile applications from accessible digital marketplaces, in accordance with applicable laws, where continued operation would result in repeated or willful violations of this Act; *Provided*, That physical closure or suspension of the establishment may be enforced as a fallback measure for domestic entities.

The DICT, in coordination with the NCDA, the DTI, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other relevant regulatory agencies, shall develop a uniform penalty assessment framework and matrix for determining the appropriate administrative penalty. Such framework shall consider, among others:

- (a) The nature and gravity of the violation;
- (b) The number of persons affected;
- (c) The duration and frequency of the violation;
- (d) The degree of accessibility denied;
- (e) The size, annual gross revenue, or financial capacity of the covered entity;
- (f) Whether the violation involves an essential public service;
- (g) Previous violations and history of compliance; and
- (h) The good faith efforts undertaken by the covered entity to prevent or remedy the violation.

The administrative penalties provided under this Act shall be without prejudice to the institution of civil or criminal actions under applicable laws.

SEC. 20. *Criminal Liability.* – Any person who willfully and knowingly:

1 (a) Refuses to comply with a final compliance order issued under this
2 Act;

3 (b) Falsifies, conceals, or misrepresents material information relating
4 to compliance with this Act; or

5
6 (c) Obstructs or interferes with any lawful inspection, investigation,
7 or enforcement proceeding conducted pursuant to this Act, shall, upon
8 conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand
9 Pesos (₱100,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos
10 (₱1,000,000.00), or imprisonment of six (6) months to two (2) years, or both,
11 at the discretion of the court.

12
13 Where the violator is an alien or a foreigner, they shall be deported immediately
14 after service of sentence without further deportation proceedings. Where the offender
15 is a corporation, partnership, association, or other juridical entity, the responsible
16 directors, officers, or employees who authorized, directed, or knowingly participated in
17 the commission of the offense shall be held criminally liable, without prejudice to the
18 administrative liability of the juridical entity.

19
20 SEC. 21. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
21 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the
22 year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

23
24 SEC. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred eighty
25 (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT, as the lead agency, in coordination
26 with the NCDA, and in consultation with the DTI, SEC, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
27 (BSP), organizations of persons with disabilities, advocacy groups, and technical
28 experts, shall promulgate and publish the rules and regulations necessary to
29 implement the provisions of this Act.

30
31 SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act is declared
32 invalid or unconstitutional, the sections or provisions not affected thereby shall
33 continue to be in full force and effect.

34
35 SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive and
36 administrative orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
37 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
38 accordingly.

39
40 SEC. 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
41 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
42 Philippines.

Approved,