

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10915**



*Introduced by Representative **ELMER V. CATULPOS**
(I-Tahanan Party-List)*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sampung minuto. Ganoon katagal, ayon kay Basti Askri sa kanyang pampublikong salaysay sa Facebook, ang pag-ring ng 911 sa kanyang tainga noong gabi ng ika-15 ng Agosto 2026, habang nakahandusay ang kanyang ama at nangangailangan ng agarang tulong medikal. Nang may sumagot, ang isinagot ay "wait." At habang naghihintay, naririnig niya umano sa kabilang linya ang tawanan at kuwentuhan. Kaya siya na mismo ang nag-CPR sa sariling ama — ang mga kamay na dapat sana ay hawak lang ang telepono, siyang dumidiin sa dibdib — habang hinihintay ang ambulansiyang hindi pa dumarating. Hindi na inabot ng kanyang ama ang umaga. Mahigit 777,000 katao ang tumugon sa kanyang salaysay sa social media sa loob lamang ng ilang araw, at ang insidente sa Taguig ay iniimbestigahan na ngayon ng DILG.

Hindi ito nag-iisang kuwento. Noong 2020, si Ricardo Camral, isang taxi driver na natanggal sa trabaho dahil sa pandemya, ay bumagsak sa isang karinderya sa Pasig; paulit-ulit na tinawagan ng mga saksi ang 911 — walang sumasagot, at nang sumagot, walang ambulansiyang available; hindi na siya nailigtas, at ang salaysay ng may-ari ng karinderya ay umabot sa 132,000 likes Pagsapit ng Abril 2026, ganito na ang itinuturo ng mga Pilipino sa isa't isa sa mga online forum: itago na lang ang lokal na numero ng inyong barangay at LGU — huwag nang umasa sa 911. Kapag ang taumbayan mismo ang nagtuturo sa isa't isa kung paano IKUTAN ang pambansang emergency number, ang sistema ang may sugat, hindi ang mga tumatawag.

Here is what almost no Filipino knows: 911 is not a law. The number every Filipino is told to memorize rests entirely on Executive Order No. 56, series of 2018 — an executive issuance that any future administration can amend, defund, or revoke with a single signature. In the entire Philippine legal system today, there is no statute that requires an emergency call to be answered within any period of time, no law that requires the person who answers to hold any certification, no independent audit of the numbers the system reports about itself, and no enforceable consequence when the phone rings and rings. When the call is not answered, no law is broken — because no law was ever written.

The numbers tell both halves of the truth. In 2024, the national 911 system received 22.3 million calls and successfully handled only 48.33 percent of them — roughly half of the

country's cries for help. Then the Department of the Interior and Local Government acted: the Unified 911 system, launched on September 11, 2025 in partnership with private telecommunications and next-generation emergency technology providers, raised call-handling efficiency to 94.42 percent on its first day — about 61,000 calls daily — and to 98.62 percent within two weeks, while prank and fraudulent calls collapsed from 60 percent of all calls in 2024 to 0.17 percent, through geolocation tracking and a caller directory that deprioritizes repeat prank callers. By March 2026, the system could filter even AI-generated robocalls. These are real achievements, and this Representation salutes them. But arithmetic is unsentimental: at 98.62 percent efficiency on roughly 61,000 calls a day, the remaining fraction is hundreds of calls every single day — and on the night of August 15, one of them was a father. A percentage measures calls. A family counts one person.

The gap, therefore, is not effort — the DILG has supplied the effort. The gap is permanence and enforceability. Secretary Remulla himself has stated the correct standard: "Success rate, for me, is reaching the point of emergency" — not the answering of a call, but the arrival of help. The President has framed the same mission as the demand for a faster, smarter, and more compassionate public service under the Bagong Pilipinas – a directive echoed by the DILG in modernizing the 911 hotline. This bill takes the Secretary's standard and the President's demand and does for them the one thing only Congress can do: write them into law that outlives every administration. Everything the Unified 911 modernization has built — the technology, the caller directory, the efficiency gains — this bill adopts, honors, and makes permanent by statute. What the executive built, the legislature now guarantees.

And let it be said plainly: the dispatcher is not the villain of this story. The person who answers the 911 line is very often not a permanent employee, holds no professionally recognized certification because none exists, absorbs the country's worst moments hour after hour with no mandated mental-health support, and works inside a system that no law has ever required to be staffed to demand. The allegations of laughter on an open line are under investigation, and if misconduct occurred it must be answered — but one investigated call center does not explain a decade of unanswered calls. What explains it is a vacuum: no statutory answer-time standard, no certification, no independent audit, no protected career path for the people we ask to be the calmest voice on the worst day of our lives. This bill faults the vacuum, and fills it — and in filling it, it is the dispatchers' bill as much as the callers'.

The urgency is a countdown, not a villain. Roughly 61,000 calls reach 911 every day; each day without binding standards, the unanswered fraction accumulates in the only ledger that matters. The Unified 911 gains are real but rest on an executive order and a set of contracts — both revocable, neither permanent. And public trust, once taught to route around the national emergency number, is not easily taught to come back. The time to lock the gains into law is while the gains are fresh and the nation is watching.

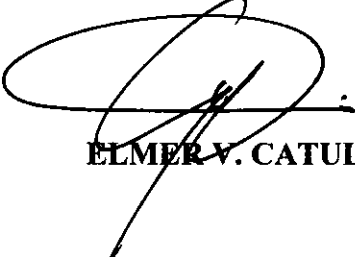
The whole architecture stands on one principle: *pamantayan sa bilis ng sagot, sertipikasyon sa sumasagot, at ulat na nakikita ng publiko*. Specifically, this bill: (1) gives statutory permanence to the 911 framework built under Executive Order No. 56 and the Unified 911 modernization — the executive's achievement, guaranteed by law; (2) creates the National Emergency Communications Authority, with its Board composed in the statute itself, to set and

enforce uniform national standards; (3) writes the country's first binding service standards into law — default national targets for call-answer and dispatch times that the Authority may tighten but never abolish; (4) institutes mandatory dispatcher certification, training, mental-health support, and career protection, so that answering the nation's emergencies becomes a profession, not a temporary job; (5) requires independent audits and a public performance dashboard — the numbers the system reports about itself, verified by someone other than itself, visible to everyone; (6) establishes the Emergency Communications Fund with poorest-first allocation — GIDA, the smallest LGUs, the smallest providers ahead of everyone — and an express rule that no LGU is commanded without funding; (7) attributes cause fairly, so no center and no dispatcher answers for a telecommunications outage, a disaster, or a shortage made elsewhere; and (8) protects call records with clear privacy, retention, and lawful-access rules.

In candor, this Representation discloses: the author is the founder of enterprises that include security services and a network of more than fifty radio stations that serve, in disasters, as last-mile lifelines when every other channel fails. He has heard, through those frequencies and those guard posts, what an unanswered emergency sounds like from the other side. He offers that experience as testimony, and notes that nothing in this bill confers any license, franchise, contract, or benefit on any enterprise of the author; any future engagement of broadcast services under this Act is limited to public broadcasters, precisely to keep it that way.

Hindi pa ito batas; kapag naipasa, ito ang ipinangako nito sa bawat Pilipinong magdadayal ng tatlong numero sa pinakamadilim na sandali ng kanyang buhay: ang tawag na hindi sinagot ay buhay na hindi sinagip — kaya mula ngayon, may batas nang magsasabing sagutin.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by a series of loops and a final downward stroke.

ELMER V. CATULPOS

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10915

*Introduced by **Representative ELMER V. CATULPOS**
(I-Tahanan Party-list)*

AN ACT ESTABLISHING NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH SERVICES, GIVING STATUTORY PERMANENCE TO THE EMERGENCY 911 FRAMEWORK, CREATING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, INSTITUTING MANDATORY DISPATCHER CERTIFICATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE, REQUIRING RESILIENT AND INTEROPERABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND RURAL COVERAGE, SETTING DATA PRIVACY AND CALL-RECORDS RULES, PROVIDING WORKFORCE SUPPORTS, MANDATING INDEPENDENTLY AUDITED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Bilis 911 Tawag Act" or the "Emergency Communications Standards Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect life, safety, and property by ensuring prompt, reliable, and equitable access to emergency communications and dispatch services nationwide. The success of an emergency communications system shall be measured not by the answering of calls alone but by the arrival of help at the point of emergency. The State shall establish and enforce uniform national service standards for emergency call-answer and dispatch times, ensure resilient and interoperable infrastructure, protect the privacy and integrity of call records, professionalize the emergency dispatch workforce, and require transparent public reporting verified by independent audit. Implementation shall prioritize the poorest and most remote areas, geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA), and the smallest service providers and local government units (LGUs). No LGU shall be commanded to comply with an operational requirement without contemporaneous funding, a

grant, a phased compliance schedule, or an express no-obligation-without-support clause as provided in this Act.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) "**Authority**" means the National Emergency Communications Authority created under this Act; (b) "**Board**" means the Board of Directors of the Authority;
- (c) "**Emergency communications center**" means any public or private call center, dispatch center, or integrated public safety answering point providing emergency call-taking, triage, or dispatch services for the numbers, systems, or networks designated as national emergency hotlines;
- (d) "**Dispatcher**" means any person who receives emergency calls, performs triage, dispatches emergency responders, or performs related emergency communications functions;
- (e) "**Call-answer time**" means the elapsed time from when a call reaches an emergency communications center until the call is answered by a trained call-taker;
- (f) "**Dispatch time**" means the elapsed time from call-answer or triage completion to the time the appropriate emergency service is dispatched or an on-scene resource is notified;
- (g) "**GIDA**" means geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas as designated by relevant government mapping or agency guidance;
- (h) "**Call-records**" means audio, text, metadata, geolocation, and any system logs or records generated by emergency calls and dispatch activities;
- (i) "**Interoperability**" means the ability of distinct information and communications systems, devices, or networks to exchange and use information reliably to support coordinated emergency response;
- (j) "**Resilience**" means the capacity of infrastructure, systems, and operations to withstand, recover, and maintain essential service levels during disruptions including power loss, network failure, and disasters; and (k) "**MSME**" means a micro, small, or medium enterprise as defined by law or relevant implementing rules.

SEC. 4. *Statutory Adoption and Continuity of the Emergency 911 Framework.* – The institutionalization of "911" as the nationwide emergency hotline number under Executive Order No. 56, series of 2018, and the framework, systems, partnerships, and modernization programs established thereunder, including the Unified 911 system and the Emergency 911 National Office, are hereby adopted and given statutory permanence. All issuances, standards, protocols, and caller-protection systems of the Emergency 911 program consistent with this Act shall continue in full force and effect and are hereby adopted as the initial implementing framework of this Act, until modified by the Authority pursuant to its powers herein. The framework so adopted shall not be abolished, defunded, or diminished except by law. This Act shall likewise be applied consistently with any subsequent law institutionalizing the national emergency hotline number or establishing an emergency medical services system, whether enacted before, together with, or after this Act, in the manner that gives fullest effect to the service standards, workforce protections, and accountability mechanisms herein created.

SEC. 5. *Creation of the National Emergency Communications Authority.* – There is hereby created the National Emergency Communications Authority, an independent regulatory and standards body attached to the Department of the Interior and Local Government for policy and program coordination and administrative purposes only. The Authority shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of: the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government as Chairperson; the Secretary of Information and Communications Technology as Vice-Chairperson; the Secretary of Health or a permanent undersecretary-level representative; the Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense; the Commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission or a deputy commissioner; one (1) representative nominated jointly by the League of Provinces, the League of Cities, and the League of Municipalities; one (1) public-safety practitioner with at least ten (10) years of emergency response experience; one (1) representative of dispatcher labor chosen by the recognized organizations of emergency communications workers; and one (1) civil-society public-safety advocate. The appointive members shall serve for a term of three (3) years, renewable once, and shall be subject to conflict-of-interest rules which shall, at minimum, prohibit any member from participating in any matter involving an entity in which the member or a relative within the fourth civil degree has a financial interest. The details of nomination and appointment shall be provided in the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Authority.* – The Authority shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) prescribe, adopt, and enforce uniform national service standards for emergency call-answer times, triage protocols, dispatch times, and performance measurement, subject to the statutory defaults in Section 7;
- (b) prescribe minimum infrastructure resilience and redundancy requirements for emergency communications centers including backup power, network diversity, and geographic redundancy;
- (c) set interoperability technical and operational requirements and require implementation plans and timelines for public safety networks and dispatch systems;
- (d) establish dispatcher certification, continuing education, and accreditation schemes;
- (e) operate or accredit a national registry for emergency communications centers and certified dispatchers;
- (f) require standardized call-record retention, access, security, and data-privacy rules for emergency communications consistent with Republic Act No. 10173 and applicable data-protection principles;
- (g) license or certify emergency communications centers that receive the national emergency hotline and require corrective action plans and sanctions for noncompliance;
- (h) collect, publish, and verify public performance metrics and maintain a publicly accessible performance dashboard;
- (i) administer grants and loans from the Emergency Communications Fund with first priority to GIDA, the poorest LGUs, and the smallest providers;
- (j) conduct or require independent quality-assurance audits and establish complaint-handling, inspection, and enforcement procedures; and

(k) coordinate, issue standards, model protocols, and guidance for the integration of dispatch with emergency medical services, hospitals, police, fire, and disaster-response agencies. The Authority shall not duplicate existing licensing regimes or regulatory authorities where those regimes already cover the same conduct; instead, the Authority shall adopt, harmonize, or make permanent by regulation existing relevant circulars and standards where appropriate.

SEC. 7. *National Service Standards; Statutory Defaults.* – Until the Authority prescribes stricter standards, the following national service standards shall apply as statutory defaults, and the Authority shall have no power to adopt standards weaker than these:

- (a) not less than *ninety percent (90%)* of emergency calls shall be answered by a trained call-taker within *twenty (20) seconds*, measured monthly per emergency communications center;
- (b) for incidents triaged as involving immediate threat to life, dispatch of the appropriate emergency service shall be initiated within *ninety (90) seconds* of triage completion;
- (c) every emergency communications center shall answer calls twenty-four (24) hours daily, every day of the year, with staffing rosters based on historical call volume;
- (d) a caller shall never be required to explain the emergency more than once by reason of internal transfer, and warm-transfer protocols shall be mandatory.
- (e) Multi-channel access — the Authority shall establish a phased program, patterned on next-generation emergency communications systems abroad, for nationwide text-to-911 service within *twenty-four (24) months*, accessible in particular to the deaf, hard of hearing, and speech-impaired, with Filipino Sign Language video relay support where technically feasible consistent with Republic Act No. 11106, and a roadmap toward Internet Protocol-based emergency communications capable of receiving text, images, and video where they aid response. Compliance shall be measured against system-generated timestamps, and the measurement methodology shall be published. Failure to meet a statutory default shall trigger a corrective action plan under Section 9, never an automatic sanction where cause attribution under Section 13(b) applies.

SEC. 8. *Dispatcher Certification, Training, and Workforce Supports.* – (a) The Authority shall establish mandatory dispatcher certification and continuing-professional-development requirements, including minimum initial training, periodic recertification, and specialty modules for medical, fire, language-access, and technical triage roles. (b) The Authority shall require accredited training providers and issue model curricula. Where existing training circulars or accreditation frameworks exist, the Authority shall recognize and incorporate them by reference and provide continuity to trainees and trainers. (c) Employers shall adopt mental-health supports, reasonable shift and rest rules, and critical-incident stress management protocols for dispatchers; employers receiving grants under the Emergency Communications Fund shall include a mental-health support plan as a condition of funding. (d) The Authority shall develop recruitment and retention incentives for underserved areas, including scholarship-and-bond programs, stipends for deployment to GIDA, and support for LGU plantilla positions where feasible and funded, it being the policy of this Act that emergency dispatching is a profession deserving of security of tenure. (e) No dispatcher or emergency communications worker shall be dismissed, demoted, penalized, or otherwise retaliated against for reporting, in good faith, any violation of this Act, any falsification of performance data, or

any unsafe staffing condition; any such retaliation shall be an offense under Section 13. (f) Telecommunicator-assisted lifesaving instruction — the certification curriculum under this Section shall include mandatory training and periodic requalification in telecommunicator-assisted cardiopulmonary resuscitation and pre-arrival instructions for bleeding control, choking, childbirth, and airway emergencies, consistent with internationally recognized resuscitation standards under which dispatcher-coached bystander CPR multiplies the survival of cardiac arrest; for any incident triaged as involving immediate threat to life, the call-taker shall, where feasible, remain on the line providing instructions until responders arrive, and no caller in such an incident shall be left to act alone in silence; where automated external defibrillator registries exist, dispatchers shall be equipped to direct callers to the nearest registered device. (g) Public-safety classification — emergency dispatchers and telecommunicators in government service shall be classified, for purposes of position classification, compensation, hazard pay, and benefits, as public-safety personnel performing protective service functions, and not as clerical or administrative personnel; the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Budget and Management shall issue the corresponding position-classification issuances within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Quality Assurance, Complaints, Audits, and Public Reporting.* – (a) Emergency communications centers shall implement internal quality-assurance programs that include call review, performance improvement plans, complaint tracking, and timely remedial actions; the Authority shall prescribe minimum records and review frequency. (b) The Authority shall maintain an independent complaint-handling mechanism and require centers to publish a local complaints and resolutions summary monthly. (c) The Authority shall require periodic independent audits of emergency communications centers, conducted by auditors with no financial interest in the audited center or its technology providers, and publish summary audit findings on its public dashboard; no performance figure shall be published as official unless the measurement system generating it has passed independent audit within the preceding two (2) years. (d) Public performance reporting shall include call-answer rates and median call-answer times, dispatch times by incident category, service availability and downtime incidents, complaint rates, and corrective actions; reporting shall disaggregate by region, indicate whether standards were met, and identify improvement percentiles so that progress is visible even where absolute targets are not yet achieved, with like compared only with like across centers of comparable size and resources.

SEC. 10. *Infrastructure Resilience, Interoperability, and Rural Coverage.* – (a) The Authority shall adopt minimum infrastructure standards that require redundant power supplies, battery and generator back-up, diverse network paths, and physical protections for emergency communications centers. (b) The Authority shall require technical interoperability standards for voice, data, and location exchange and mandate implementation timelines that prioritize GIDA and the poorest LGUs first. (c) The Authority shall develop a phased national plan for closing rural and underserved coverage gaps using layered solutions including fixed, mobile, radio, and broadcast technologies, and may engage the Presidential Broadcast Service – Bureau of Broadcast Services and other public broadcasters where suitable to support last-mile lifeline broadcasting functions in disasters. (d) No LGU shall be required to meet the full suite of

infrastructure requirements prior to receiving a funded upgrade or a phased compliance plan supported by grants, loans, or technical assistance from the Emergency Communications Fund. (e) All telecommunications entities shall ensure uninterrupted, free-of-charge connectivity of the public to the national emergency hotline, including location information transmission consistent with law. (f) Dispatchable location — the Authority, with the National Telecommunications Commission, shall require the progressive transmission, with every emergency call where technically feasible, of handset-derived or network-derived caller location, and, for calls from buildings and complexes, of dispatchable location information consisting of the validated address plus building, floor, unit, or room information adequate to find the caller, patterned on international dispatchable-location standards and adapted to Philippine addressing conditions, with GIDA-appropriate alternatives where formal addressing is absent. (g) Direct access from private telephone systems — every multi-line or internal telephone system installed, upgraded, or first placed in service after the effectivity of this Act in hotels, resorts, offices, business process outsourcing facilities, schools, hospitals, malls, and residential or commercial complexes shall permit direct dialing of the national emergency hotline without any prefix, access code, or operator intervention, and shall provide simultaneous on-site notification to a front desk, security, or safety officer so that on-premises help can begin before responders arrive; this requirement is forward-looking and shall not require the retrofit of systems already in service before effectivity, and micro and small enterprises shall be given a phased compliance schedule under the implementing rules.

SEC. 11. *Emergency Communications Fund; Allocation.* – (a) There is hereby established in the National Treasury a special fund to be known as the Emergency Communications Fund, to be administered by the Authority. The Fund shall finance infrastructure upgrades, redundancy projects, dispatcher training and certification subsidies for GIDA, seed operating grants for accredited emergency communications centers in poor LGUs, and procurements necessary to meet the Authority’s minimum standards. (b) Allocation rules shall give first priority to GIDA, the poorest LGUs, and MSMEs operating in underserved areas, and a simple, expedited application process shall be established for small LGUs and small providers. (c) Administrative fines collected under this Act, and donations, grants, and official development assistance accepted by the Authority, shall accrue to the Fund and be separately accounted for. (d) All directives in this Act that impose duties on LGUs are subject to the express rule that no additional financial obligation shall be imposed on an LGU unless funding is provided under this Fund, other identified sources, or a negotiated phased compliance plan in effect.

SEC. 12. *Integration with Emergency Medical Services and Hospitals; Data Privacy and Call-Records.* – (a) The Authority shall coordinate with the national agencies and councils responsible for emergency medical services to ensure that dispatcher triage protocols, ambulance dispatching, and hospital notification systems operate on standardized interoperable processes, and shall harmonize its standards with any emergency medical services system law or measure, whether enacted before, together with, or after this Act. (b) The Authority shall prescribe minimum standards for the retention, access, security, and lawful disclosure of call-records, balancing public-safety needs and privacy; call-record retention periods shall be specified by regulation; access for investigations shall require lawful process; the caller’s own

call-record shall be accessible to the caller or the caller's next of kin upon request, subject to reasonable safeguards; and technical and organizational safeguards shall be required consistent with Republic Act No. 10173. (c) The Authority, with the Department of Health and the National Center for Mental Health, shall establish a specialized routing and warm-transfer protocol between the national emergency hotline and the national mental health crisis hotline established pursuant to Republic Act No. 11036, so that a caller in mental-health crisis is connected to specially trained responders without ever being dropped, transferred cold, or made to repeat the crisis, and dispatch of appropriate response proceeds in parallel where there is danger to life.

SEC. 13. *Enforcement, Sanctions, Cause Attribution, and Administrative Appeals.* – (a) The Authority shall have administrative enforcement powers including issuance of notices of violation, imposition of fines, suspension or revocation of accreditation or certification, and authority to require corrective action plans; fines collected shall be remitted to the Emergency Communications Fund after statutory accounting requirements. (b) The Authority shall adopt a transparent enforcement framework that attributes cause when performance failures are due to factors outside a center's control, such as telecommunications carrier outages, natural disasters, power interruptions, or missing upstream data; no center, dispatcher, or official shall be sanctioned for a failure whose cause is attributed elsewhere, and each cause attribution shall generate a report to the entity responsible for the upstream failure; sanctions shall be proportionate, remedial, and focused on correcting systemic causes. (c) The falsification, manipulation, or misrepresentation of performance data, and retaliation against a dispatcher protected under Section 8(e), shall be punishable by a fine of not less than *One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)* nor more than *One million pesos (P1,000,000.00)*, without prejudice to administrative and criminal liability under other laws. (d) Adverse administrative decisions shall be subject to an internal administrative appeal within the Authority and thereafter to judicial review as provided by law.

SEC. 14. *Reportorial Requirement.* – The Authority shall submit to both Houses of Congress an annual report on the state of emergency communications, including: compliance with the national service standards per region; the number of certified dispatchers and vacancies; independent audit results; Fund utilization with the share received by GIDA and the poorest LGUs; cause-attribution reports issued and the responses of upstream entities; and legislative recommendations. The appropriate committees of Congress shall review the implementation of this Act annually for the first three (3) years.

SEC. 15. *Relationship to Other Laws; Non-Diminution.* – This Act complements and builds upon Executive Order No. 56, series of 2018, as adopted herein; Republic Act No. 10173; Republic Act No. 10121; and the pending legislative measures institutionalizing the national emergency hotline and establishing an emergency medical services system, which this Act is designed to complete and be completed by, in whatever order they are enacted. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish any right, duty, or protection provided under existing laws and issuances consistent with this Act.

SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations; Self-Executing Provisions.* – The Authority, in consultation with relevant national agencies, LGU leagues, dispatcher labor representatives, and stakeholder organizations, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days from its effectivity: Provided, That the failure to promulgate such rules shall not suspend the operation of this Act, and the following shall be self-executing upon effectivity: Section 4 (statutory adoption and continuity), Section 5 (creation of the Authority), Section 7 (statutory default service standards), Section 8(e) (protection of dispatchers against retaliation), Section 11 (establishment of the Fund and authority to accept and allocate funds), and Section 13(b) (cause attribution).

SEC. 17. *Appropriations.* – The amount of *One billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00)* is hereby appropriated as initial funding for the implementation of this Act and the initial capitalization of the Emergency Communications Fund, chargeable against the budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Pending the initial appropriation, the Authority may accept donations, grants, or official development assistance, separately accounted for.

SEC. 18. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, administrative issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 20. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.