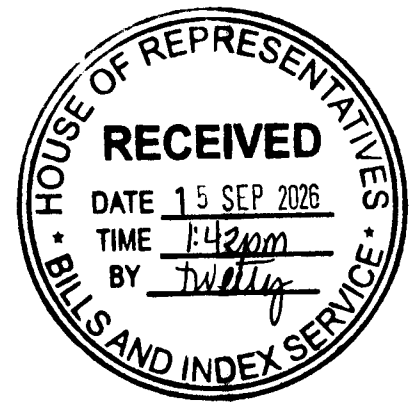


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11326



Introduced by REP. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A MODERNIZED ZONE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ZIP)
CODE SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Modernized ZIP Code System Act transitions the Philippines from its traditional four-digit postal code format to a granular, seven-character alphanumeric system consisting of two letters for the region or province and five numbers for the city, municipality, and specific barangay. Under this legislation, the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) is mandated to assign every barangay nationwide a unique code to significantly improve mail delivery, logistics, and administrative identification. To ensure public and digital accessibility, PHLPost must develop a free digital locator and an open Application Programming Interface (API) while strictly complying with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and DICT cybersecurity standards.

Modernizing the postal code system brings profound importance and positive effects to the country's economic and administrative landscape. By giving every single barangay a precise digital address, the law cuts through the chronic inefficiencies of vague addressing that currently plague Philippine logistics, e-commerce, and emergency services. This hyper-granular precision drastically reduces delivery failures, lowers operational and fuel costs for courier and logistics firms, and accelerates the booming e-commerce sector. Furthermore, it empowers government agencies and financial institutions with reliable data to streamline service delivery, enhance geographical targeting for public health and social welfare programs, and strengthen compliance with national security and data standards.

The bill establishes a structured, mandatory 36-month phase-in period from its effectivity, giving all national government agencies, local government units, government-owned corporations, and private sector entities adequate time to update their databases. To guarantee seamless implementation, PHLPost will spearhead a nationwide information campaign within 90 days and collaborate with key agencies to draft the Implementing Rules and

Regulations. Finally, the measure ensures institutional accountability by requiring PHLPPost to submit a comprehensive implementation plan to Congress upon the approval of the IRR, followed by continuous quarterly progress reports.

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



REP. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK/BONG" M. ACOP

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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 ***Modernized ZIP Code System Act***.

SEC. 2. Institutionalization of the Modernized ZIP Code. The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) is hereby mandated to adopt and institutionalize a modernized alphanumeric Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code System, to enhance the efficiency of mail delivery, logistics, and administrative identification nationwide.

SEC. 3. Structure of the Modernized ZIP Code. The modernized alphanumeric ZIP Code shall be composed of seven (7) characters consisting of two (2) alphabetic characters (A-Z), representing the province, highly urbanized city, or administrative region, and five (5) Arabic numerals (0-9), representing the city or municipality and the specific barangay.

Each of the barangays nationwide shall be assigned a unique alphanumeric ZIP Code: ***Provided,*** That the PHLPost shall ensure that the system allows flexibility in accommodating the creation, division, merger, or abolition of a barangay, through a law or ordinance in accordance with Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) and subject to the

plebiscite requirements; ascertain organized implementation, and prevent jurisdictional conflicts, in regular coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and other concerned government agencies.

SEC. 4. ZIP Code Locator and Public Access. Utilizing the modernized system, PHLPOST shall develop and maintain a free, publicly accessible Application Programming Interface (API) and a digital ZIP Code Locator. These platforms shall allow the public to search for the ZIP Code of a particular barangay and vice versa with ease, in compliance with the ***Data Privacy Act of 2012*** (RA 10173) and applicable DICT cybersecurity and data security guidelines.

SEC. 5. Phase-in Period and Information Campaign. A structured and mandatory phase-in period of thirty-six (36) months from the effectivity of this Act shall be implemented. All national government agencies, local government units, government-owned or -controlled corporations, and private sector entities are hereby required to update their databases using the new ZIP Code System within this period.

PHLPost shall likewise duly inform the Universal Postal Union and other relevant international postal organizations of the modernization of the Philippine ZIP Code system.

Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the PHLPOST shall lead, develop, and implement, together with the communications offices of all government agencies, a nationwide information and education campaign on the modernized ZIP Code System to all sectors.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PHLPost Governing Board, in coordination with the DILG, DICT, the PSA, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), the National Privacy Commission (NPC), and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the

effective implementation of this Act. The formulation of the IRR shall be undertaken in consultation with representatives from civil society organizations, the academe, media, and relevant industry stakeholders.

The IRR shall establish protocols for access, data integrity checks, and security standards for the national ZIP Code database. These provisions shall be consistent with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and the DICT-prescribed cybersecurity standards, and shall be crafted in coordination with ARTA and the NPC.

SEC. 7. *Implementation Plan.* Upon issuance and approval of the IRR, the PHLPost Governing Board shall adopt a comprehensive implementation plan and submit it to Congress, through the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises of the Senate of the Philippines and the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization of the House of Representatives. The plan shall include timelines, milestones, stakeholder-engagement activities, and risk-mitigation measures.

SEC. 8. *Congressional Reporting Requirement.* PHLPost shall also submit a quarterly progress report on the implementation of this Act to Congress, through the respective Committees stated in the preceding section.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of PHLPost. Thereafter, the sum necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees and issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,