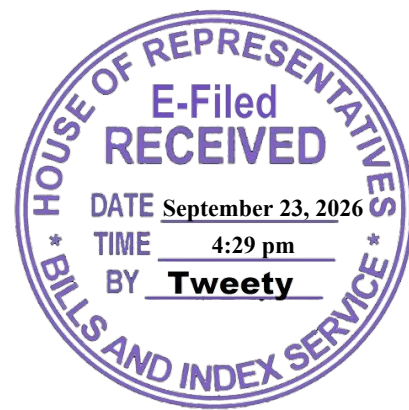


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11461



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE PROPER INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND
REMOVAL OF DANGLING AND NON-OPERATIONAL OVERHEAD UTILITY WIRES
AND CABLES BY ALL ENTITIES AUTHORIZED TO INSTALL OR MAINTAIN
AERIAL UTILITY CABLES, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The fast-paced expansion of telecommunications, high-speed internet, cable service, and electric distribution networks has significantly driven the Philippines' modernization and economic growth.¹ However, this expansion heavily burdened major metropolitan areas because of dangling, sagging, and abandoned overhead wires, widely known as "spaghetti wires".

In 2023, one of the most prominent structural failures linked to "spaghetti wires" happened near the historic Binondo Church in Manila, where four consecutive electric poles collapsed simultaneously due to the weight of thousands of unmaintained communication lines.² The incident left three people injured and several vehicles damaged.

The continued accumulation of these overhead wires has created a dangerous and often neglected problem along public roads and in residential areas. These messy cables are more than just a form of visual pollution, but a critical threat to public safety as well.³ Dangling live wires may cause electrocution, sparks, and devastating structural fires, particularly in densely populated communities.

Furthermore, around two million kilos of unutilized and unusable wires have been removed in Manila, highlighting how utility companies often abandon dead and non-

¹ Dela Cruz, R. (2026). PH connectivity agenda gets boost with telco sector's \$2.2-B capex. Available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1283081>

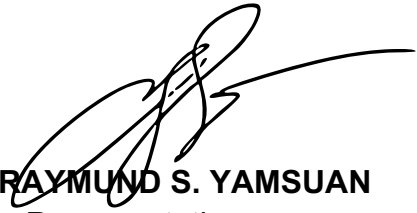
² Philippine Daily Inquirer. (2023). Eyes on heavy cables after Binondo pylons' collapse. Available at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1812393/eyes-on-heavy-cables-after-binondo-pylons-collapse>

³ Garcia, P. (2024). MMC to discuss moves vs 'spaghetti wires'. Available at <https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/27/mmc-to-discuss-moves-vs-spaghetti-wires-1>

operational cables instead of removing them before installing new ones.⁴ As a result, utility poles are left structurally overloaded, leaving them highly vulnerable to snapping or falling during typhoons.

Currently, the country lacks a strict legal framework that clearly holds public utility entities accountable for the proper maintenance and removal of their infrastructure. The regulation of these wires and similar hazards are left to the local government units. Without clear responsibilities and enforceable standards however, the “spaghetti wires” will continue to accumulate, posing risks to both public safety and existing infrastructure.

This proposed bill seeks to address this long-standing urban hazard by establishing clear standards for the installation, maintenance, identification, and removal of cables, while ensuring that utility companies will be held accountable for keeping their infrastructure safe and orderly.



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District, Parañaque City

⁴ Ong, G. (2025). Manila fights ‘spaghetti’ wires. Available at <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2025/07/10/2456925/manila-fights-spaghetti-wires>

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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 “Anti-Dangling Wires Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to ensure public safety and promote orderly infrastructure development in communities. The State recognizes that unmaintained, sagging, and abandoned overhead wires pose hazards to pedestrians and motorists, increase the risk of fire incidents, and may cause danger during typhoons and other severe weather disturbances. Toward this end, the State shall require the proper maintenance, bundling, and removal of non-operational aerial utility wires to ensure safer, more organized, and efficient utility services.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) *Dangling Wires* refer to sagging, unsecured, or improperly installed overhead utility cables that pose a risk to public safety.
- (b) *Non-Operational Wires or Cables* refer to overhead wires or cables that are no longer used for the transmission or delivery of electricity, telecommunications, cable television, or internet services.
- (c) *Public Utility Providers* refer to electric power distribution utilities, telecommunications companies, cable television operators, internet service providers, and other entities authorized to install or maintain aerial utility cables.
- (d) *Aerial Wires or Cables* refer to utility lines installed above ground using poles, posts, or other overhead infrastructure.

SEC. 4. Responsibilities of Public Utility Providers. – All public utility providers covered by this Act shall:

- (a) Properly bundle, secure, and maintain dangling aerial utility wires and cables;
- (b) Remove all non-operational or abandoned wires and cables attached to poles, posts, or other overhead infrastructure;
- (c) Ensure that aerial wires and cables comply with the minimum safety clearance standards prescribed by relevant government agencies;
- (d) Relocate, repair, or replace damaged poles or posts that contribute to unsafe or improperly positioned overhead wires; and
- (e) Conduct periodic inspections and maintenance of aerial utility infrastructure within their service areas.

SEC. 5. Compliance Period. - All public utility providers shall comply with the requirements of this Act within one (1) year from its effectivity. Thereafter, continuous maintenance and removal of non-operational wires shall be undertaken as part of regular infrastructure management.

SEC. 6. Enforcement and Monitoring. - Local government units (LGUs) shall monitor and ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act within their respective jurisdictions. LGUs may conduct inspections and coordinate with national regulatory agencies in identifying violations and enforcing corrective actions.

SEC. 7. Penalties.

- (a) Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act that fail to comply with the requirements of Section 3 of this Act shall pay a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) for each day of non-compliance, computed from the time of filing of the complaint to the proper authority.
- (b) Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act that fail to comply with the requirements of Section 4 and 5 of this Act shall pay a fine of not less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00) The Head of Agency and other concerned officials of the LGU who fail to comply with the requirements of Section 5 of this Act shall be liable for administrative sanctions.
- (c) Any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act whose installation or relocation of its wires or cables caused any damage to property or injury to persons shall shoulder the full costs of the damage and/or medical expenses incurred as a result thereof, and pay a fine of not less than double the amount of such costs.
- (d) The LGU concerned may suspend or revoke the permits of any public utility company and similar entities covered by this Act for any violations of this Act.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Telecommunications Commission, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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,