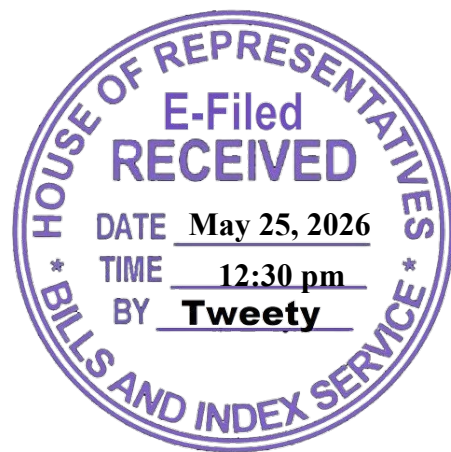




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 335

Submitted by the Committees on Public Information and Appropriations on May 25, 2026

Re: House Bill No. 9397

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 56, 259, 530, 634, 949, 1187, 2897, 3643, 4183, 4451, 4609, 4612, 4964, 5174, 5593, 5653, 6126, 6149, 6206, 6424, 6617, 6682, 6786, 6970, 7210, 7306, 8487, 8691, and 8744

Sponsors: Representatives Lordan G. Suan, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing,
Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan, and Brian Poe

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Public Information and Appropriations, to which were referred House Bill No. **56**, introduced by Representative Adrian E. Salceda, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION, PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR ITS ENFORCEMENT, ESTABLISHING A STANDARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **259**, introduced by Representative Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION”

House Bill No. **530**, introduced by Representative Eduardo R. Rama Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT ENABLING THE PEOPLE’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION”

House Bill No. **634**, introduced by Representative Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC

DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **949**, introduced by Representative Crispin Diego D. Remulla, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **1187**, introduced by Representative Brian Poe, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY”

House Bill No. **2897**, introduced by Representatives Leila M. De Lima, Edgar R. Erice, Adrian Michael A. Amatong, Kaka J. Bag-ao, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Cielo Krisel Lagman, and Alfonso V. Umali Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **3643**, introduced by Representative Bienvenido M. Abante Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN GUARANTEED UNDER SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT, ARTICLE II, AND SECTION SEVEN, ARTICLE III OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **4183**, introduced by Representative Omar Vincent Sangkola Duterte, entitled:

“AN ACT ENABLING PEOPLE’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION”

House Bill No. **4451**, introduced by Representative Marcelino “Marcy” R. Teodoro, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION BY ENSURING TRANSPARENCY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND DIGITAL INCLUSION IN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **4609**, introduced by Representative Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION AS A MECHANISM FOR TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT”

House Bill No. **4612**, introduced by Representative Agatha Paula Aguilar Cruz, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **4964**, introduced by Representatives Eric Go Yap and Edvic G. Yap, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO INFORMATION HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT”

House Bill No. **5174**, introduced by Representative Keith Micah “Atty. Mike” D.L. Tan, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **5593**, introduced by Representative Salvador A. Pleyto, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN, ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK OF ACCESS THERETO, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **5653**, introduced by Representative Iris Marie Demesa Montes, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE”

House Bill No. **6126**, introduced by Representative Kristine Singson-Meehan, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION, PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR ITS ENFORCEMENT, ESTABLISHING A STANDARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **6149**, introduced by Representative Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **6206**, introduced by Representative Lordan G. Suan, entitled:

“AN ACT ENABLING THE PEOPLE’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION”

House Bill No. **6424**, introduced by Representative De Carlo L. Uy, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO INFORMATION, INSTITUTIONALIZING PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE AND TIMELY ACCESS TO OFFICIAL RECORDS ACROSS THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES, INCLUDING CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND OTHER INSTRUMENTALITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **6617**, introduced by Representatives Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Vincenzo Renato Luigi R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony “Hori” G. Horibata, and Terry L. Ridon, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **6682**, introduced by Representatives Antonio L. Tinio, Sarah Jane I. Elago, and Renee Louise M. Co, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION”

House Bill No. **6786**, introduced by Representative Ma. Nina Francesca P. Lacson, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION, PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR ITS ENFORCEMENT, ESTABLISHING A STANDARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **6970**, introduced by Representative Eric L. Olivarez, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION AS A MECHANISM FOR TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT”

House Bill No. **7210**, introduced by Representative Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN AND IMPLEMENTING THE STATE POLICY OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL ITS TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC INTEREST, PROVIDING

MECHANISMS FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE EXERCISE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **7306**, introduced by Representatives Percival “Perci” Cendaña, Jose Manuel Tadeo “Chel” I. Diokno, Dadah Kiram Ismula, and Kaka J. Bag-ao, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN AND IMPLEMENTING THE STATE POLICY OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL ITS TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC INTEREST, PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE EXERCISE, ESTABLISHING A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **8487**, introduced by Rep. Ricardo S. Curz Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION, PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR ITS ENFORCEMENT, ESTABLISHING A STANDARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM”

House Bill No. **8691**, introduced by Rep. Kenneth T. Gatchalian, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION”

and House Bill No. **8744**, introduced by Rep. Nathaniel M. Oducado, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 9397, entitled:

“AN ACT UPHOLDING THE PEOPLE’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND PROMOTING FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC INTEREST”

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 56, 259, 530, 634, 949, 1187, 2897, 3643, 4183, 4451, 4609, 4612, 4964, 5174, 5593, 5653, 6126, 6149, 6206, 6424, 6617, 6682, 6786, 6970, 7210, 7306, 8487, 8691, and 8744 with Representatives Lordan G. Suan, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan, Roy M. Loyola, Patrick Michael D. Vargas, Adrian E. Salceda, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Ferdinand “B1” L. Beltran, Ryan S. Recto, Ruth M. Sakaluran, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Ronaldo V. Puno, Eduardo R. Rama Jr., Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Crispin Diego D. Remulla, Nathaniel M. Oducado, Brian Poe, Franz S. Pumaren, Jesus “Jess” R. Marquez, Leila M. De Lima, Edgar R. Erice, Adrian Michael A. Amatong, Kaka J. Bag-ao, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Cielo Krisel Lagman, Alfonso V.

Umali Jr., Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez, Bienvenido M. Abante Jr., Omar Vincent Sangkola Duterte, Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Maria Kristina Jihan B. Glepa, Joseph Kim C. Yu, Jeyzel Victoria C. Yu, Ramil Laurel Hernandez, Agatha Paula Aguilar Cruz, Eric Go Yap, Edvic G. Yap, Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Salvador A. Pleyto, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Juan Carlos "Arjo" C. Atayde, De Carlo L. Uy, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Vincenzo Renato Luigi R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, Terry L. Ridon, Antonio L. Tinio, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Renee Louise M. Co, Ma. Nina Francesca P. Lacson, Eric L. Olivarez, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Percival "Perci" Cendaña, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Dadah Kiram Ismula, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Ricardo S. Cruz Jr., Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Albert S. Garcia, Arnie B. Fuentesbella, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Joseph S. Tan, Loreto S. Amante, Nicanor M. Briones, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Florabel C. Yatco, Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo, and Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



Rep. LORDAN G. SUAN
Chairperson
Committee on Public Information

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
Quezon City



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9397

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 56, 259, 530, 634, 949, 1187, 2897, 3643, 4183, 4451, 4609, 4612, 4964, 5174, 5593, 5653, 6126, 6149, 6206, 6424, 6617, 6682, 6786, 6970, 7210, 7306, 8487, 8691, and 8744)

Introduced by Representatives Lordan G. Suan, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan, Roy M. Loyola, Patrick Michael D. Vargas, Adrian E. Salceda, Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Ryan S. Recto, Ruth M. Sakaluran, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Ronaldo V. Puno, Eduardo R. Rama Jr., Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, Crispin Diego D. Remulla, Nathaniel M. Oducado, Brian Poe, Franz S. Pumaren, Jesus "Jess" R. Marquez, Leila M. De Lima, Edgar R. Erice, Adrian Michael A. Amatong, Kaka J. Bag-ao, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Cielo Krisel Lagman, Alfonso V. Umali Jr., Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez, Bienvenido M. Abante Jr., Omar Vincent Sangkola Duterte, Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Maria Kristina Jihan B. Glepa, Joseph Kim C. Yu, Jeyzel Victoria C. Yu, Ramil Laurel Hernandez, Agatha Paula Aguilar Cruz, Eric Go Yap, Edvic G. Yap, Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Salvador A. Pleyto, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Juan Carlos "Arjo" C. Atayde, De Carlo L. Uy, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Vincenzo Renato Luigi R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, Terry L. Ridon, Antonio L. Tinio, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Renee Louise M. Co, Ma. Nina Francesca P. Lacson, Eric L. Olivarez, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Percival "Perci" Cendaña, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Dadah Kiram Ismula, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Ricardo S. Cruz Jr., Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Albert S. Garcia, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Joseph S. Tan, Loreto S. Amante, Nicanor M. Briones, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Florabel C. Yatco, Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo, and Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco

AN ACT

**UPHOLDING THE PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ACCESS
INFORMATION AND PROMOTING FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL
GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC INTEREST**

1 instrumentalities, including bodies owned or controlled by any branch or agency of
2 government, subject to limitations imposed by existing laws.

3 It shall also encompass government operations, and inter-agency and intra-
4 agency communications involving the sharing and processing of data and information
5 for the purposes of policy-making, planning, and decision-making.

6 It shall further apply to any natural or juridical person, including any public
7 service contractor, concessionaire, grantee, supplier, or entity transacting with the
8 government, to the extent that such person or entity: (a) performs a public function; (b)
9 exercises delegated governmental authority; (c) receives or uses public funds, to the
10 extent of such funding; or (d) holds records necessary to account for, audit, or evaluate
11 any public transaction or public function.

12 Records relating to a public function or public transaction shall remain subject
13 to access under this Act, regardless of whether such records are in the custody of a
14 government agency or instrumentality, or a private person or entity.

15
16 **CHAPTER II**
17 **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

18
19 **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

20 (a) *Access to information* refers to access to official records, documents, and
21 papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to
22 government research data used as basis for policy development, which shall
23 be afforded, subject to the limitations as may be provided by this Act;

24
25 (b) *Final record* refers to a record that embodies a final decision, policy, action,
26 contract, report, or disposition, including the factual basis, data, and
27 attachments relied upon;

28
29 (c) *Information* refers to any records, documents, papers, reports, letters,
30 contracts, minutes and transcripts of official meetings, maps, books,
31 photographs, data, research materials, films, sound and video recordings,
32 magnetic or other tapes, electronic data, computer-stored data, or any other
33 like or similar data or materials recorded, stored or archived in whatever format,
34 whether offline or online which are made, received or kept in or under the
35 control and custody of any government office pursuant to law, executive order,
36 rules and regulations, ordinance or in connection with the performance or
37 transaction of official business by any government agency or instrumentality;

38
39 (d) *Labor* refers to workers from the public or private sectors, formal or informal
40 economy, including migrant workers;

- 1 (e) *Machine-readable format* refers to formats that allow data to be extracted and
2 processed by computer programs;
3
- 4 (f) *Official record* refers to information produced or received by a public officer or
5 employee, or by a government agency or instrumentality in an official capacity
6 or pursuant to a public function or duty;
7
- 8 (g) *Online RTI portal* refers to the official centralized electronic platform
9 designated by the Commission created under Section 5 of this Act which
10 provides access to government information, enables the tracking of requests,
11 and receives information requests online. This mode promotes demand-driven
12 transparency and accountability as it is also designed to assist government
13 offices in receiving, processing, and responding to the requests that they
14 receive online;
15
- 16 (h) *Open format* refers to file format that is platform independent, machine
17 readable, and made available to the public;
18
- 19 (i) *Personal information* refers to any information whether recorded in a material
20 form or not, from which the identity of an individual is apparent or can be
21 reasonably and directly ascertained by the entity holding the information, or
22 when put together with other information would directly and certainly identify
23 an individual, as defined under Republic Act (RA) No. 10173 or the Data
24 Privacy Act of 2012;
25
- 26 (j) *Public interest override* refers to the rule that access to information shall be
27 granted when the public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm sought to
28 be prevented by an applicable exception;
29
- 30 (k) *Public official* refers to elective and appointive officials and employees,
31 permanent or temporary, whether in the career or non-career service, including
32 military and police personnel, whether or not they receive compensation,
33 regardless of amount;
34
- 35 (l) *Public record* refers to information required by laws, executive orders, rules, or
36 regulations to be entered, kept and made publicly available by a government
37 agency or instrumentality;
38
- 39 (m) *Public service contractor* refers to a private entity that has a dealing, contract,
40 or transaction of whatever nature with the government or a government agency
41 or instrumentality that utilizes public funds;
42
- 43 (n) *Record* refers to any information, data, document, material, communication,
44 database, dataset, metadata, annex, attachment, audit trail, or other

1 information-containing medium, regardless of form or format, whether physical
2 or electronic, and regardless of where stored;

3 (o) *Records management* refers to the managerial activities involved with respect
4 to the creation, maintenance and use, transmission, retention, and disposition
5 of records in order to achieve adequate and proper documentation of policies
6 and transactions of government for its efficient, effective and economical
7 operations;

8
9 (p) *Request* may refer to any of the following:

10 (i) *Simple request* refers to a request submitted by a requesting party to a
11 government agency or instrumentality that involve providing readily
12 available information or records, including those already published on its
13 website or maintained in its records management system, and which
14 require minimal review or processing;

15 (ii) *Complex request* refers to a request submitted by a requesting party to a
16 government agency or instrumentality that involve the retrieval, review, or
17 extraction of existing records or data from a single office or source,
18 including those requiring the identification and compilation of existing
19 information from voluminous records: *Provided*, That such requests shall
20 not be construed as requiring the creation of new documents, lists,
21 abstracts, summaries, analyses, or reports that do not already exist in the
22 records of the agency or instrumentality; or

23 (iii) *Highly technical request* refers to a request submitted by a requesting party
24 to a government agency or instrumentality that involve the retrieval, review,
25 or extraction of existing records or data from multiple offices or sources,
26 large volumes of documents, or records covering multiple years, and which
27 may require specialized technical skills for purposes of format conversion,
28 data extraction, or reproduction: *Provided*, That the government agency or
29 instrumentality shall not be required to create, develop, analyze, interpret,
30 or collate information or data into new reports, findings, lists, abstracts, or
31 summaries that do not already exist or are not available in its records
32 management system. For purposes of this paragraph, “specialized
33 technical skills” shall refer solely to the processing, extraction, conversion,
34 or reproduction of existing records, and shall not be construed to require
35 the preparation of new research, conclusions, or analytical findings.

36
37 (q) *Segregability* refers to the duty to disclose reasonably segregable non-exempt
38 portions of a record and to redact only those portions that are exempt, with
39 written justification;

40
41 (r) *Sensitive personal information* refers to the definition under the Data Privacy
42 Act of 2012 of personal information that are:

- 1 (i) about an individual's race, ethnic origin, marital status, age, color and
2 religious, philosophical or political affiliations;
- 3 (ii) about an individual's health, education, genetic or sexual life of a person or
4 to any proceeding for any offense committed or alleged to have been
5 committed by such person, the disposal of such proceedings, or the
6 sentence of any court in such proceedings;
- 7 (iii) issued by government agencies peculiar to an individual which includes,
8 but not limited to, social security numbers previous or current health
9 records, licenses or its denials, suspension or revocation and tax returns;
10 and
- 11 (iv) specifically established by an executive order or an act of Congress to be
12 kept classified.
- 13
- 14 (s) *Transactions involving public interest* refer to any government act, decision, or
15 activity that uses public authority, funds, property, or natural resources, or
16 grants rights, privileges, concessions, or benefits to private parties.
17

18 **CHAPTER III**
19 **RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION**
20

21 **SEC. 5. *Right to Information (RTI) Commission.*** – There is hereby created
22 an independent and quasi-judicial body to be known as the “Right to Information (RTI)
23 Commission”, hereinafter referred to as the Commission.

24 The Commission is administratively attached to the Office of the President
25 solely for administrative coordination and budgetary interface, and not for supervision
26 or control over the Commission's powers and functions under this Act. In the exercise
27 of its policymaking, adjudicatory, enforcement, monitoring, and rule-making functions
28 under this Act, it shall be free from any supervision, direction, control, or interference
29 by any department, agency, instrumentality, or office of the government, including any
30 of its officials or employees.

31 The Commission shall implement this Act and its Implementing Rules and
32 Regulations (IRR), provide technical guidance on matters concerning public
33 information, set operational standards for its disclosure, and settle disputes through
34 adjudication or mediation.

35 **SEC. 6. *Composition of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall be
36 composed of a Chairperson and two (2) Commissioners, who shall have the rank,
37 salary, emoluments, and privileges equivalent to a Cabinet Secretary and
38 Undersecretary, respectively.

39 The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be appointed by the President
40 from a shortlist of nominees submitted by the independent Selection Committee
41 established under the succeeding section.

1 **SEC. 7. Independent Selection Committee.** – There is hereby created an
2 Independent Selection Committee, which shall be responsible for screening applicants
3 and submitting to the President a shortlist of qualified nominees for appointment as
4 Chairperson and Commissioners of the Commission.

5 The Selection Committee shall conduct a merit-based, transparent, and
6 participatory process to ensure competence, integrity, independence, and
7 multisectoral representation.

8 The Selection Committee shall be appointed by the President, and shall be
9 composed of:

- 10 (a) A Chairperson, who shall be a retired judge or a recognized expert in
11 governance and public administration;
- 12 (b) One (1) representative from the Office of the President;
- 13 (c) Three (3) representatives, with recognized expertise in transparency,
14 governance, human rights, or public administration, from any of the following
15 sectors: civil society organizations, the academe, the legal profession, or the
16 media; and
- 17 (d) One (1) independent, non voting observer from a professional or sectoral
18 organization.

19
20 The Selection Committee shall adopt and publish its internal rules and
21 procedures, ensure transparency of its proceedings, and safeguard the independence
22 of the process from partisan or undue political influence.

23 The Selection Committee shall be constituted and convened within fifteen (15)
24 working days from notice of an impending or actual vacancy in the Commission. Its
25 members shall serve only for the duration of the selection cycle for which they are
26 constituted, commencing upon constitution and ending upon submission of the
27 shortlist to the President: *Provided*, That such service shall not exceed one hundred
28 twenty (120) calendar days, unless extended for justifiable reasons.

29 Upon submission of the shortlist, the Selection Committee shall be deemed
30 dissolved, without prejudice to its reconstitution for subsequent vacancies.

31 **SEC. 8. Term of Office.** – The term of office of the Chairperson and
32 Commissioners shall be seven (7) years without reappointment. Of those first
33 appointed, the Chairperson shall hold office for seven (7) years, the first Commissioner
34 for five (5) years, and the second Commissioner for three (3) years. The Chairperson
35 and the Commissioners shall enjoy security of tenure and shall not be suspended or
36 removed from office except for just cause and after due process as provided by law.

37 **SEC. 9. Vacancies.** – Any vacancy in the Commission created by the death,
38 resignation, or removal of any Commissioner shall be temporarily filled by the
39 Executive Director, and the next in rank, should there be any other vacancies, who
40 shall act as Commissioner and perform all powers, duties, and responsibilities of the

1 position until a new Commissioner is appointed by the President to serve the
2 unexpired portion of the term. Any vacancy shall be filled within sixty (60) calendar
3 days.

4 **SEC. 10. Qualifications.** – The Chairperson and Commissioners shall be
5 Filipino citizens, and of good moral character, unquestionable integrity and known
6 probity. They shall have at least ten (10) years of relevant experience with proven
7 knowledge and eminence in any of the fields of law, governance, public
8 administration, human rights, social development, journalism, information and
9 communications technology (ICT), data science, statistics, management, or media
10 and communication. The appointees may come from the following sectors:
11 government, business, academe, labor, rural, or urban poor, or members of
12 concerned civil society organizations, non-government organizations, or people’s
13 organizations.

14 **SEC. 11. Prohibitions, Disqualifications, and Removal.** – During their
15 tenure, the Chairperson and Commissioners shall not hold any other public or private
16 office or employment, directly or indirectly practice any profession except in a teaching
17 capacity, participate in any business, or be financially interested in any contract with,
18 or any franchise, or special privileges granted by the government or any subdivision,
19 agency, or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned and -controlled
20 corporations or their subsidiaries. They shall strictly avoid conflict of interest in the
21 conduct of their office. For two (2) years following their cessation from office, they shall
22 not be allowed to personally appear or practice as counsel or agent on any matter
23 pending before the Commission. They shall not be qualified to run for any office in the
24 election immediately succeeding their cessation from office: *Provided*, That the
25 election mentioned hereof is not a barangay election.

26 The Chairperson or any Commissioner may be removed from office for cause
27 and only after due process. A verified complaint may be filed with either the Office of
28 the President or the Office of the Ombudsman, and once filed, the receiving body shall
29 have exclusive jurisdiction over the proceeding. Complaints may be filed *motu proprio*
30 or by (a) any member of the Commission itself; (b) any party who has appeared before
31 the Commission in an adjudicatory proceeding; or (c) any government agency or
32 instrumentality directly affected by a Commission order.

33 Grounds for removal are strictly limited to the following: serious misconduct,
34 gross neglect of duty, grave abuse of authority, gross incompetence, conviction of a
35 crime involving moral turpitude, or any act substantially undermining the integrity,
36 independence, or credibility of the Commission, and shall be construed narrowly in
37 light of its quasi-judicial character. In no case shall removal be grounded solely on
38 disagreement with any decision, ruling, or order of the Commission in the exercise of
39 its adjudicatory, enforcement, or quasi-judicial functions.

40 No removal shall take effect without a formal order of the President or the
41 Ombudsman issued upon a finding of cause.

1 **SEC. 12. Executive Director.** – The Commission shall appoint, by majority
2 vote of its members, an Executive Director who shall serve as the chief administrative
3 officer of the Commission.

4 The Executive Director shall occupy a permanent *plantilla* position and shall be
5 appointed by the Commission in accordance with civil service laws and regulations.
6 The Executive Director shall enjoy security of tenure and may be removed only for
7 cause and after due process of law.

8 The Executive Director shall be a Filipino citizen and shall have at least ten
9 (10) years of relevant professional experience in any of the following fields: law,
10 governance, public administration, human rights, social development, journalism, ICT,
11 data science, statistics, management, or media and communication.

12 The Executive Director shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration
13 and management of the Commission and shall exercise such functions as may be
14 delegated by the Commission, subject to its supervision and control.

15 The Executive Director shall:

- 16 (a) Implement the policies, resolutions, and directives of the Commission;
- 17 (b) Supervise and manage the administrative, financial, and operational affairs of
18 the Commission;
- 19 (c) Oversee human resource management, budgeting, procurement, and records
20 administration, subject to applicable laws and regulations;
- 21 (d) Ensure the proper processing of requests, appeals, and complaints filed before
22 the Commission;
- 23 (e) Provide technical and administrative support to the Commission in the exercise
24 of its quasi-judicial and regulatory functions; and
- 25 (f) Perform such other administrative functions as may be assigned by the
26 Commission.

27
28 **SEC. 13. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern of the**
29 **Commission.** – The Commission shall determine its organizational structure and
30 staffing pattern subject to the evaluation and approval of the Department of Budget
31 and Management (DBM), in accordance with the civil service and other pertinent laws,
32 rules, and regulations.

33 **SEC. 14. Functions and Duties of the Commission.** – The Commission shall
34 have all the powers, direct or incidental, as necessary to undertake its functions under
35 this Act, including but not limited to the following:

- 36 (a) Oversee the implementation of all RTI and online RTI programs for all the
37 branches of the Philippine Government and monitor compliance therewith;
- 38 (b) Monitor compliance of government agencies and instrumentalities covered in
39 Section 3 including the proper application of the exceptions under Section 32
40 of this Act;

- 1 (c) Issue policies, orders, and guidelines in the implementation of this Act;
- 2 (d) Develop and implement capacity-building, institutional strengthening, and
- 3 public education programs to promote awareness of the constitutional right to
- 4 information and ensure compliance by public officers and employees, including
- 5 Right to Information Officers and Right to Information Decision Makers;
- 6 (e) Coordinate and participate with local and international civil society
- 7 organizations or any non-government institutions in any initiatives relative to the
- 8 implementation and enforcement of this Act;
- 9 (f) Enter into any agreement with any public or private entities or organizations
- 10 relative to the implementation of this Act;
- 11 (g) Prescribe the schedule of fees which must be reasonable based on the principle
- 12 of proactive disclosure, in regard to providing information;
- 13 (h) Provide assistance on matters relating to the implementation of this Act upon
- 14 request by any of the covered agencies pursuant to Section 3;
- 15 (i) Act as the official representative of the Philippine government in right to
- 16 information matters;
- 17 (j) Provide guidelines, consistent with national ICT policies and standards, to
- 18 promote the digitization and use of open format of records and information held
- 19 by government agencies and instrumentalities, and bodies covered by this Act;
- 20 and
- 21 (k) All other functions and duties necessary and incidental for the enforcement and
- 22 implementation of this Act.

23
24 Pursuant to the functions of the Commission, it shall ensure that public officers
25 and employees are adequately trained to improve awareness of the Constitutional
26 right on access to information and the provisions of this Act.

27 **SEC. 15. Powers of the Commission.** – For the purpose of performing its
28 functions and duties as provided in the preceding section, the Commission shall have
29 the power to:

- 30 (a) Issue *subpoenas ad testificandum* and *subpoenas duces tecum* to compel the
- 31 attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, records, or other
- 32 evidence necessary for the exercise of its functions under this Act. *Subpoena*
- 33 powers shall be exercised in accordance with the Rules of Court. In case of
- 34 refusal or failure to comply with a duly issued *subpoena*, the Commission may
- 35 seek enforcement thereof before the proper court;
- 36 (b) Inspect any information held by a government agency or instrumentality,
- 37 including information denied by it under the provisions of this Act: *Provided,*
- 38 That the information which is claimed to be exempted from disclosure shall be
- 39 examined in confidence;
- 40 (c) Direct a government agency or instrumentality to provide access to requested
- 41 information in a specific format, such as electronic, printed, or certified copy,
- 42 when such format is necessary to facilitate access and is reasonably
- 43 practicable under the circumstances;

- 1 (d) Direct a government agency or instrumentality to publish any information
2 withheld by the said agency or instrumentality from the public, subject to the
3 provisions of Chapter VII hereof;
- 4 (e) Expeditiously hear and determine any appeals made to it by any aggrieved
5 person;
- 6 (f) Direct a government agency or instrumentality to reimburse fees charged when
7 there has been a delay on the transaction;
- 8 (g) Investigate, hear and decide on cases involving any violation of this Act and
9 other existing right to information laws *motu proprio* or upon receipt of a verified
10 complaint from an interested party, and institute the appropriate administrative
11 or criminal proceedings;
- 12 (h) Impose sanctions, fines or penalties for any noncompliance with or breach of
13 this Act, and cite any person for contempt who obstructs, impedes, or interferes
14 with Commission proceedings, hearings, or investigations, in accordance with
15 law. The procedure for enforcing contempt shall be detailed in the IRR;
- 16 (i) Require any entity, government agency or instrumentality to abide by its orders
17 or take action on a matter affecting the right to information;
- 18 (j) Request the assistance of any government enforcement agency or seek the
19 cooperation of private institutions, corporations, entities, or associations as may
20 be necessary to effectively carry out its powers and functions under this Act.
- 21 (k) Recommend to the Department of Justice (DOJ) the initiation of prosecutorial
22 action against any person found to have violated the provisions enumerated
23 under Section 34 of this Act;
- 24 (l) Coordinate with other government agencies and instrumentalities, civil society,
25 and the private sector on efforts to formulate and implement plans and policies
26 to strengthen the right to information in the country;
- 27 (m) Appoint, discipline, and manage its officers and employees in accordance with
28 Section 12; and
- 29 (n) Exercise all other powers determined to be necessary for the implementation
30 and enforcement of this Act.

31
32 **SEC. 16. *Limited Immunity.*** – The Chairperson, Commissioners, officers,
33 employees, and agents of the Commission shall not be held civilly liable for acts done
34 or omitted in good faith and within the scope of their official duties and authority under
35 this Act.

36 Nothing in this Section shall be construed to exempt any person from criminal,
37 administrative, or other liability for acts committed in bad faith, with gross negligence,
38 with manifest partiality, or in violation of the Constitution or existing laws.

39 This provision shall not limit or affect the authority of the President or the
40 Ombudsman to remove the Chairperson or any Commissioner for just cause and after
41 due process as provided in Section 11 of this Act.

42 **SEC. 17. *Indemnification.*** – Subject to the availability of funds in accordance

1 with existing laws, the Commission may indemnify the Chairperson, Commissioners,
2 officers, employees, and agents for reasonable legal expenses and civil liabilities
3 incurred in connection with actions arising from the lawful performance of their official
4 duties under this Act.

5 No indemnification shall be granted for acts committed in bad faith, with gross
6 negligence, with manifest partiality, or in violation of the Constitution or existing laws.

7 Indemnification under this Section shall not extend to criminal penalties, fines,
8 or liabilities imposed by final judgment.

9
10 **CHAPTER IV**
11 **ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURES**
12

13 **SEC. 18. Access to Information.** – Every person has a right to and shall, on
14 request, be given access to any information, official records, public records, and
15 documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions or decisions, or that are
16 of public concern under the control of a government agency or instrumentality
17 regardless of the format in which they are contained.

18 **SEC. 19. Right to Information Officer (RIO) and Right to Information**
19 **Decision Maker (RDM).** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, every
20 government agency or instrumentality, including local and regional offices, shall
21 designate at least one (1) RIO and one (1) RDM.

22 The RIO and RDM shall be designated from among existing officials or
23 employees holding *plantilla* positions. Such designation shall not be construed as
24 requiring the creation of new positions, unless otherwise authorized under applicable
25 civil services and budgetary laws. In recognition of variations in organizational
26 structures and resource capacities, particularly at the local government level, the
27 designation of the RIO and RDM may be made in a concurrent capacity, subject to
28 CSC and DBM rules.

29 The RIO shall receive, acknowledge, track, and monitor all RTI requests and
30 appeals. The RDM shall be an official occupying a position of sufficient rank and
31 authority, not lower than a Division Chief or its equivalent, or, if unavailable, the
32 highest-ranking official authorized to decide on disclosure matters.

33 The detailed roles, responsibilities, and reporting procedures of the RIO and
34 RDM shall be prescribed in the IRR, consistent with this Act.

35 In recognition of the local autonomy of the LGUs under Article X of the 1987
36 Constitution and the authority granted to LGUs under R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known
37 as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, each LGU shall determine the appropriate
38 organizational arrangement for compliance with this section. The creation of new
39 *plantilla* positions for the RIO or the RDM shall be within the discretion of the LGU to
40 create such positions when it deems necessary and consistent with its organizational

1 requirements and fiscal capacity, subject to applicable civil service laws, budgetary
2 regulations, and personnel services limitations.

3 **SEC. 20. Procedure for Requesting Information. –**

- 4 (a) Any person or requesting party who wishes to obtain information shall submit a
5 request to the government agency or instrumentality concerned personally, by
6 mail, or through electronic means, including the Online RTI Portal.
- 7 (b) A person who is unable to make a written request for information, because of
8 illiteracy or disability, may make a verbal request. The RIO who receives the
9 verbal request shall reduce the same into writing, including his or her name and
10 position within the government agency or instrumentality, and give a copy
11 thereof to the requesting party.
- 12 (c) The request shall state the name and preferred contact information of the
13 requesting party, and reasonably describe the information requested, and
14 indicate the preferred means by which the government agency or
15 instrumentality shall communicate such information. The requesting party shall
16 not be required to provide any justification or reason for seeking the information.
- 17 (d) If the request is submitted personally, the requesting party shall show any
18 current identification card issued by any government agency, government or
19 private employer or school, or a barangay certificate for purposes of identity
20 verification only. Alternatively, the requester may submit a sworn declaration or
21 other reasonable means of identity verification, as provided in the IRR.
- 22 (e) If the request is submitted by mail or through electronic means, the requesting
23 party may submit a photostatic or electronically scanned copy of verifiable
24 identification, or other convenient means as determined by the agency:
25 *Provided*, That the government agency or instrumentality shall, by reasonable
26 means, prevent the disclosure to the public of the government-issued
27 identification card of any requesting party.
- 28 (f) The RIO, upon receiving the request, shall provide reasonable assistance, free
29 of charge, to enable all requesting parties, and particularly those with special
30 needs, to comply with the requirements for a valid request under this section.
- 31 (g) The request shall be stamped by the RIO, indicating the date and time of
32 receipt, and the name, rank, title and position of the RIO with the corresponding
33 signature, and a copy thereof furnished to the requesting party. In case the
34 request is submitted by electronic means, the RIO shall provide for an
35 equivalent means by which the requirements of this paragraph shall be met.
36 Each government agency or instrumentality shall establish a system to track
37 the status of all requests for information received by it.
- 38 (h) The request may indicate the requesting party's preferred mode and means of
39 receiving the information requested: *Provided*, That the mode and means are
40 reasonable, taking into consideration the distance, and the equipment normally
41 available to the concerned government agency or instrumentality.
- 42 (i) In cases where the request for information requires further details to conclude
43 resolution, the RIO shall notify the requesting party and initiate a clarification

1 process, and the processing period will be suspended. Upon receipt of the
2 clarification, the remaining time period will resume. If no clarification is received
3 from the requesting party after sixty (60) calendar days, the request shall be
4 deemed “closed”, and no further action will be required on the part of the
5 agency: *Provided*, That such closure shall be without prejudice to the filing of a
6 new request covering the same information.

7 The concerned government agency or instrumentality may communicate the
8 information requested in a form other than the preferred means whenever the agency
9 has no capability in communicating the information in the preferred format, or such
10 preferred means would unreasonably interfere with the effective operation of the
11 agency or be detrimental to the preservation of the record.

12 When a government agency or instrumentality receives a request for
13 information that it does not hold but knows or believes is held by, or is more closely
14 related to the functions of, another government agency or instrumentality, it shall
15 promptly refer the request to the appropriate agency or instrumentality and notify the
16 requesting party. The receiving agency or instrumentality shall process the request in
17 accordance with this Act as if it were an original request.

18 **SEC. 21. *Timeline and Fees.*** – The government agency or instrumentality,
19 through its RIO, shall respond to the request as soon as practicable, and in any case
20 within three (3) working days for simple requests, seven (7) working days for complex
21 requests, and twenty (20) working days for highly technical requests from receipt
22 thereof. The response mentioned above refers to the decision of the agency or
23 instrumentality concerned to grant or deny access to the information requested.

24 For requests involving an imminent threat to life, liberty, public safety, public
25 health, or the environment, the government agency or instrumentality shall give due
26 priority and respond as promptly as circumstances allow, and, where feasible, within
27 forty-eight (48) hours, subject to lawful redactions.

28 Government agencies and instrumentalities covered under this Act shall not
29 charge any fees for filing or processing a request for information. Fees may only be
30 imposed to the extent necessary to defray costs incurred for reproducing and sending
31 the information requested based on the schedule to be provided by the Commission.

32 The Commission shall prescribe in the IRR the applicable fees in connection
33 with the effective implementation of this Act.

34 **SEC. 22. *RTI Manual.*** – All covered agencies and instrumentalities shall
35 prepare and adopt their respective RTI Manuals within one hundred eighty (180) days
36 from the issuance of the guidelines by the Commission. The guidelines shall prescribe
37 the content and format of the Manual, which shall include provisions on applicable
38 fees, the designation and contact information of RIOs and RDMs, procedure for the
39 processing, referral, and transferring of information requests, list of exempted
40 information or records from disclosure pursuant to this Act, internal review

1 mechanism, and all other pertinent procedures for the efficient and effective access
2 to information.

3 The agencies shall not, in preparing their RTI Manual, create or expand the list
4 of exceptions beyond those provided under this Act.

5 **SEC. 23. Submission of RTI Annual Reports by Government Agencies**
6 **and Instrumentalities.** – All government agencies and instrumentalities shall submit
7 annual reports to the Commission detailing the information requests received,
8 processed, and denied, including any appeals within thirty (30) days after the end of
9 the calendar year. For denied requests, the specific provisions of this Act that have
10 been invoked to justify non-disclosure shall also be indicated in the reports.

11 **SEC. 24. Online RTI Portal.** – The existing electronic Freedom of Information
12 (eFOI) Portal (www.foi.gov.ph) managed by the Freedom of Information–Program
13 Management Office (FOI-PMO) under the Presidential Communications Office (PCO)
14 shall be transferred to the Commission and shall be renamed as the “Online RTI
15 Portal”.

16 To improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the Online RTI Portal, the
17 Commission may integrate AI features to automate and streamline core processes.
18 These enhancements aim to reduce processing time, increase accuracy, and facilitate
19 timely and consistent responses.

20 The Online RTI Portal must apply sufficient information security and data
21 privacy controls in compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and other existing
22 laws and relevant regulations. The portal shall also provide information in an open
23 standards format as defined by the Philippine eGovernment Interoperability
24 Framework or PGIF.

25 **SEC. 25. Proactive Publication.** – All government agencies and
26 instrumentalities shall have the duty to proactively disclose data and information within
27 their respective office premises and through their official websites, subject to
28 exceptions under Section 32 hereof. The information to be disclosed shall include, but
29 not be limited to, the following:

- 30 (a) The mandate and functions, vision, mission, and core values of the agency or
31 instrumentality;
- 32 (b) The programs and projects of the agency or instrumentality, including the
33 names and addresses of third-party contractors;
- 34 (c) The powers and duties of officials, along with their position and office contact
35 information;
- 36 (d) The norms set by the agency or instrumentality for the discharge of its functions;
- 37 (e) The procedure followed in the decision-making process, including channels of
38 supervision and accountability;
- 39 (f) The current and updated service standards or guidance used by the agency or
40 instrumentality, and its officials and employees in relation to its dealings with
41 the public, including the rules, instructions, manuals and records, held by it or

1 under its control or used by its employees for discharging its functions or the
2 Citizen's Charter;

3 (g) Statistical data of its accomplishments;

4 (h) The budget allocated to each of its agencies, including the particulars of all
5 plans, proposed expenditures and reports on disbursement made in open and
6 machine-readable format;

7 (i) Annual Procurement Plan of each agency or instrumentality;

8 (j) Subsidy and assistance programs of the government including but not limited
9 to health care, community development, or women and children care. The
10 manner of the execution of these programs, the amounts allocated and
11 beneficiaries;

12 (k) Particulars of concessions, permits, or authorizations granted by it;

13 (l) The names, designation, contact details of responsible public officers, including
14 RIOs and RDMs, and appellate authorities;

15 (m) Current news, and updated events conducted by agencies and
16 instrumentalities;

17 (n) Number of FOI or RTI requests received per year;

18 (o) Number of classified documents per year;

19 (p) All transactions involving public interest, including but not limited to the
20 negotiation, award, or implementation of contracts, concessions, franchises,
21 loans, guarantees, subsidies, public-private partnerships, and infrastructure
22 projects, shall be disclosed, including project costs, contractors, and
23 implementation status. The duty to disclose arises once the government has
24 reached a definite position or decision, or when the transaction is ready for
25 official action or public commitment;

26 (q) Bilateral and multilateral arrangements and agreements; and

27 (r) Environmental, climate, disaster risk reduction, and public safety information of
28 significant public concern, including hazard maps, environmental compliance
29 documents, monitoring data, advisories, and datasets necessary for public
30 preparedness and accountability, shall be disclosed in open and machine-
31 readable formats where practicable.

32
33 The Commission may expand, but not diminish, the categories of information
34 subject to proactive disclosure. To this end, it shall consult relevant government
35 agencies and instrumentalities, and stakeholders to determine additional categories
36 of information for publication.

37 To ensure consistency in the identification and publication of proactively
38 disclosed information, all government agencies and instrumentalities covered under
39 Section 3 shall adopt, maintain, and periodically review a Proactive Disclosure Plan
40 that sets out the list, categories of information, including datasets, that are routinely
41 requested and published through the mechanisms provided under this Act. Such Plan
42 shall be lodged with and monitored by the Commission and posted on the Online RTI
43 Portal. The specific contents, timelines, and procedures for preparing, reviewing, and

1 updating these Plans shall be prescribed in the IRR.

2 Government agencies and instrumentalities shall ensure that proactively
3 disclosed information is made accessible through appropriate and effective means,
4 including official websites, bulletin boards, e-Bulletin Boards, and other suitable
5 communication platforms, so as to reach affected and underserved communities.

6 The Commission shall publish an annual report summarizing implementation
7 efforts under this Act, including an overview of the receipt, processing, and compliance
8 of requests across all government agencies and instrumentalities.

9 **SEC. 26. Disclosure of Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth**
10 **(SALNs).** – Subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations, the SALNs of public
11 officials and employees shall be made accessible to the public in accordance with this
12 Act: *Provided*, That the following information shall be redacted from any SALN copy
13 released to a requesting party:

- 14 (a) The complete home address of the declarant;
- 15 (b) The names, dates of birth, and ages of any unmarried children below eighteen
16 (18) years of age living in the declarant’s household;
- 17 (c) The signatures of the declarant and co-declarant, if any; and
- 18 (d) The government-issued identification numbers of the declarant and co-
19 declarant.

20
21 **SEC. 27. Ensuring Data Quality and Institutional Accountability.** – To
22 uphold the right of access to accurate and reliable information, all government
23 agencies and instrumentalities covered under this Act shall ensure the quality,
24 integrity, and timeliness of the information they generate, maintain, and disclose.
25 Government agencies and instrumentalities shall take reasonable steps to ensure that
26 information is accurate, complete, up to date, and maintained in a manner that
27 preserves its authenticity and reliability, with inaccuracies promptly corrected or
28 annotated upon discovery or verified request. Government agencies and
29 instrumentalities shall designate responsible officers or units to maintain data quality,
30 implement internal verification procedures prior to disclosure, respond to public
31 concerns regarding data accuracy within the period prescribed in the IRR, and provide
32 formal feedback mechanisms on their data portals, including features for requesting
33 datasets, reporting errors or inconsistencies, and submitting comments on data
34 quality.

35 A public log of substantive changes or updates to disclosed information shall
36 be maintained to promote transparency and traceability.

37 The Commission, *motu proprio*, or any person adversely affected by inaccurate
38 information disclosed by a public agency, may request correction or file a formal
39 complaint with the concerned agency, which shall act within the timeframe prescribed
40 in the IRR.

41 A request for correction shall not suspend or delay access to information that

1 is otherwise disclosable. Where corrections are made, government agencies and
2 instrumentalities shall, where practicable, preserve the historical record through
3 annotated or versioned updates indicating the nature and date of the change.

4 **CHAPTER V**
5 **INTERNAL REVIEW AND APPEAL**
6

7 **SEC. 28. Notice of Denial.** – If the government agency or instrumentality
8 decides to deny the request, in whole or in part, it shall, as soon as practicable, and in
9 any case within the prescribed applicable period from the receipt of the request, notify
10 the person making the request of such denial in writing or through electronic means.
11 The notice shall clearly set forth the ground or grounds for denial, including the
12 applicable exception under this Act and the circumstances or factual basis on which
13 the denial is based, indicate whether partial disclosure was considered, and indicate
14 available rights of reconsideration or appeal.

15 The notice shall indicate the name, rank, title or position, and office of the
16 person making the denial. Government agencies and instrumentalities shall issue an
17 acknowledgment or official receipt of every request for access to information within
18 three (3) working days from submission. The acknowledgment shall indicate whether
19 the request is granted, denied, or requires an extension.

20 **SEC. 29. Remedies in Cases of Denial of Request for Information.** – All
21 government agencies and instrumentalities shall establish an internal review
22 mechanism to review and monitor every denial of a request for access to information.

23 All denial of requests shall be reviewed by the internal review mechanism of the
24 agency or instrumentality, following a written request submitted in writing or electronic
25 means, within fifteen (15) calendar days from the receipt of the notice of denial.

26 The request to review shall be decided by the internal review mechanism of the
27 agency or instrumentality within twenty (20) working days from the filing of the said
28 written request. The decision shall indicate the name, rank, title, or position of the
29 person making the decision, clearly set forth the ground or grounds and the
30 circumstances on which the grant or denial of decision is based.

31 Failure of the government agency or instrumentality to act and decide on the
32 request within the period stated in the preceding paragraphs shall constitute a denial
33 thereof and is deemed to be final: *Provided*, That in case the requesting party fails to
34 file a request to review within the period provided herein, the denial of the request shall
35 be deemed final: *Provided, further*, That in case the requesting party is not satisfied
36 with the decision of the internal review mechanism of the concerned agency or
37 instrumentality, said party may file an appeal to the Commission within fifteen (15)
38 calendar days from receipt of the decision or from the lapse of the period to decide.
39 The appeal shall be decided within twenty (20) working days from the filing of the
40 appeal. Failure to decide within the prescribed period is deemed a denial of the appeal.

1 The Commission shall establish its internal rules of procedures on cases filed
2 before it to ensure the prompt, impartial, and effective resolution of disputes under this
3 Act. The rules shall include procedures for urgent requests and guidance on requests
4 involving bodies whose appeals may be limited by constitutional provisions.

5 **SEC. 30. *Dispute Resolution.*** – Upon appeal by a requesting party, the
6 Commission shall resolve all disputes arising under this Act in the exercise of its quasi-
7 judicial authority and in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, using expeditious and
8 non-technical procedures.

9 The Commission may, where appropriate, facilitate voluntary mediation or
10 conciliation to narrow issues and expedite disclosure. Orders directing disclosure shall
11 be immediately executory unless restrained by the proper court upon a clear showing
12 of specific and demonstrable harm.

13 An aggrieved party may, after final action by the Commission or upon the lapse
14 of applicable periods, seek recourse before the proper courts in accordance with the
15 Rules of Court.

16 **CHAPTER VI**
17 **DATA PRIVACY**

18
19 **SEC. 31. *Harmonization with the National Privacy Commission (NPC).*** – In
20 implementing this Act, government agencies and instrumentalities shall protect
21 personal data in accordance with the Data Privacy Act Of 2012 and issuances of the
22 NPC, and shall comply with applicable information security standards.

23 Privacy shall constitute a legitimate but limited exception to disclosure and shall
24 be applied subject to the harm, necessity, and proportionality standards under this Act.
25 Public officials and employees shall have a reduced expectation of privacy with
26 respect to information relating to their official functions, duties, and use of public
27 resources; the same shall apply to private persons or entities insofar as their activities
28 involve public funds or matters of legitimate public concern.

29 The Commission and the NPC shall coordinate and issue joint guidelines
30 governing requests involving personal or sensitive information, including standards on
31 redaction, anonymization, aggregation, and conflict resolution, and may establish
32 liaison mechanisms between RTI and Data Privacy Officers. They shall jointly
33 undertake training and compliance measures and may recommend appropriate
34 administrative action for noncompliance.

35 **CHAPTER VII**
36 **INVENTORY OF EXCEPTIONS**

37
38 **SEC. 32. *Exceptions.*** – Access to information shall be granted unless:

1 (a) The information is specifically authorized to be kept confidential under
2 guidelines established by an executive order or Presidential issuance, and in
3 fact properly classified pursuant thereto: *Provided*, That

4 (i) the information directly relates to national security or defense and its
5 revelation may cause damage to the national security or internal and
6 external defense of the State; or

7 (ii) the information requested pertains to the foreign affairs of the Republic of
8 the Philippines when its revelation shall unduly weaken the negotiating
9 position of the government in an ongoing bilateral or multilateral negotiation,
10 or seriously jeopardize the diplomatic relations of the Philippines with any
11 State, or prejudice the entrusting of information to the Republic of the
12 Philippines on a basis of confidence by the government of any other country
13 or any international organization: *Provided*, That sufficient information is
14 disclosed to afford reasonable public participation in government decision-
15 making on bilateral and multilateral agreements: *Provided, further*, That the
16 head of the department or agency having custody or possession of such
17 information, shall keep under continuing review all classified information in
18 his custody and may direct the declassification review of such review as
19 needed. Declassification of information shall be subject to the approval of
20 the President: *Provided, further*, That any information on the assistance
21 provided to overseas Filipinos may be declassified upon approval of the
22 President: *Provided, finally*, That unpublished diplomatic correspondence
23 during active international negotiations, foreign diplomats, and other
24 information relating to foreign diplomats, and other information relating to
25 foreign affairs, may be declassified by the President only upon
26 recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

27
28 (b) The information discloses investigatory records compiled for law enforcement
29 purposes or information which are contained in such records, but only to the
30 extent that the production of such records or information will:

31 (i) reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

32 (ii) deprive a person of the right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

33 (iii) reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy;

34 (iv) the information is furnished by or came from a confidential source and in
35 the case of a record compiled by a law enforcement authority in the course
36 of a criminal investigation, or civil forfeiture proceeding, including its related
37 remedial measures, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security
38 intelligence, money laundering and terrorism financing investigation,
39 confidential information is furnished only by the confidential source;

40 (v) unjustifiably disclose investigative or prosecutorial techniques and
41 procedures; or

42 (vi) reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any
43 individual: *Provided*, That convictions by final judgment rendered by judicial
44 or quasi-judicial bodies, and other similar records, shall be disclosable.

1
2 This exception shall not be invoked to deny access to information, records, or
3 documents requested by government agencies or instrumentalities with a
4 specific constitutional or statutory mandate to conduct investigations, such as
5 the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Audit, and the Office of
6 the Ombudsman. The release of such information to these agencies or
7 instrumentalities shall be governed by their respective mandates.

- 8 (c) The information pertains to a testimony, report, document, or discussion
9 obtained during an executive session of the Congress of the Philippines or any
10 of its committees;
- 11 (d) The information is classified as privileged communications in legal proceedings
12 by law or by the Rules of Court, including non-disclosable information as
13 recognized under The Rule on Access to Information about the Supreme Court,
14 Court of Appeals Freedom of Information Manual, Rule on Access to
15 Information about the *Sandiganbayan*, The Rule on Access to Information
16 about the Lower Courts, and other pertinent issuances of the Supreme Court
17 on the matter, unless the person entitled to the privilege has waived it;
- 18 (e) The information pertains to drafts of Commission on Audit (COA) decisions,
19 audit working papers and other audit materials, and other information as may
20 be limited under COA Circular No. 2013-006 dated September 18, 2013, as
21 may be amended;
- 22 (f) The information consists of internal recommendations, options, draft regulatory
23 measures, advisory opinions, deliberations, or other pre-decisional and
24 deliberative materials generated within or among agencies prior to the adoption
25 of a definite proposition, position, decision, or issuance, including market-
26 sensitive regulatory actions, the premature disclosure of which would cause
27 specific, demonstrable, and substantial harm to the public interest, including but
28 not limited to:
- 29 (i) undermining the integrity of governmental decision-making;
 - 30 (ii) materially discouraging free and frank internal discussion among officials
31 and employees;
 - 32 (iii) distorting financial, currency, securities, or commodity markets;
 - 33 (iv) facilitating fraud, manipulation, or speculative advantage; or
 - 34 (v) materially impairing the effectiveness of a lawful regulatory, supervisory, or
35 enforcement action.

36
37 This exception shall apply only to the extent and for the period strictly necessary
38 to prevent such specific, demonstrable, and substantial harm.

39
40 Purely factual, statistical, technical, scientific, or analytical information,
41 including background studies, data sets, and objective findings necessary to
42 enable meaningful public participation, shall not be withheld under this
43 paragraph unless such information is inextricably intertwined with deliberative

1 matter and its disclosure would likewise result in the harm herein contemplated.

2 Where public consultation or participation is required by the Constitution or by
3 law, the agency or instrumentality concerned shall, at an appropriate stage of
4 the decision-making process, disclose summaries of the issues, objectives, and
5 options under consideration, together with their relevant factual bases,
6 sufficient to permit informed public engagement.

7 Information withheld pursuant to this paragraph shall be disclosed upon the
8 adoption of a definite proposition, position, decision, or regulatory issuance:
9 *Provided*, That continued withholding may be justified only to the extent that
10 disclosure would still result in specific, demonstrable, and substantial harm
11 consistent with this Act, and subject in all cases to the principles of severability
12 and public interest override.

13 (g) The information pertains to trade secrets, commercial or financial information,
14 or intellectual property obtained from a natural or juridical person other than the
15 requesting party, and the revelation thereof will seriously prejudice the interests
16 of such natural or juridical person in trade, industrial, financial, or commercial
17 competition;

18 (h) The information pertains to the personal information of a natural person,
19 whether from the public or the private sector, and its disclosure constitutes an
20 unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless such information is
21 specifically required by law to be entered into an official record and made
22 available to the public, or the person has consented in writing to the disclosure
23 of the information. To the extent required to prevent an unwarranted invasion
24 of personal privacy, an agency or instrumentality may redact such information
25 from a record made available to the public. The justification for the redaction
26 shall be explained fully in writing, and the extent of such redaction shall be
27 indicated on the portion of the record which is made available or published; and

28 (i) The information is exempted from disclosure by the Constitution or by law.
29

30 The determination of whether any of these grounds apply shall be the
31 responsibility of the head of office of the government agency or instrumentality in
32 custody or control of the information, or any responsible central or field officer duly
33 designated by the head of office: *Provided*, That with regard to collegial bodies,
34 boards, commissions, or other courts, the Chairperson or presiding officer or member
35 is deemed the head of office for purposes of this provision.

36 The government agency or instrumentality shall not be required to act upon a
37 subsequent request from the same requesting party for information that is identical or
38 substantially similar to information previously requested and provided, unless a
39 reasonable interval has elapsed between compliance with the prior request and the
40 filing of the new request, or unless the requesting party demonstrates a legitimate
41 need for an updated, corrected, or more complete version of the information.

1 The Commission shall refer findings indicating possible criminal violations to
2 the Office of the Ombudsman, in the case of public officers or employees, or to the
3 DOJ, in the case of private persons, for appropriate investigation and prosecution.

4 Any violation committed by judges and Court personnel shall be subject to
5 disciplinary action under Rule 140 of the Rules of Court, as amended, and other
6 applicable rules, circulars, and issuances promulgated by the Supreme Court.

7 **SEC. 35. Administrative Offenses.** – Public officials and employees covered
8 under this Act are duty-bound to facilitate access to information in accordance with its
9 provisions. The following acts, when willfully or knowingly committed, may constitute
10 grounds for administrative liability under existing civil service laws and regulations:

- 11 (a) Unjustified delay in responding to a request for information or appeal, or in
12 complying with any final and executory decision or order issued pursuant to
13 this Act;
14 (b) Knowingly invoking or applying an exception under Section 32 of this Act
15 without factual or legal basis; or
16 (c) Approving or enforcing policies, rules, or procedures that are clearly and
17 manifestly inconsistent with this Act and that result in denial, delay, or
18 obstruction of access to information.

19 The Commission may investigate complaints *motu proprio* or upon verified
20 complaint and shall refer its findings to the appropriate disciplinary authority, including
21 the CSC or the Office of the Ombudsman, as may be proper, without prejudice to their
22 respective constitutional and statutory jurisdiction.

23 **SEC. 36. Administrative Liability.** – Any violation of the preceding section
24 shall be subject to penalties, after due notice and hearing, in accordance with civil
25 service laws, rules, and other applicable regulations.

26 Nothing in this section shall preclude the filing of appropriate administrative
27 cases for offenses not classified as grave under the preceding section, in accordance
28 with applicable laws and regulations.

29 Any violation of the preceding section committed by judges and Court personnel
30 shall be subject to disciplinary action under Rule 140 of the Rules of Court, as
31 amended, and other applicable rules, circulars, and issuances promulgated by the
32 Supreme Court.

33 **SEC. 37. Whistleblower Protection.** – No person or witness shall be subjected
34 to legal, administrative, civil or employment-related sanctions for disclosing
35 information in good faith that reveals:

- 36 (a) Wrongdoing, including the commission of a criminal offense, failure to comply
37 with a legal obligation, miscarriage of justice, corruption, dishonesty, or serious
38 maladministration or misconduct by a public official; or
39 (b) A serious threat to public health, safety, the environment, or any matter of public
40 interest.

1 transparency, civic engagement, and the responsible use of information, the right of
2 access to information, media and information literacy, and the principles of good
3 governance shall be progressively and appropriately integrated into the curriculum
4 across all subject areas.

5 The Department of Education (DepEd) shall adopt a “Spiral Governance and
6 Media Advocacy” framework that integrates RTI and Media and Information Literacy
7 not as a standalone subject, but as a core competency across all key stages.

8 The Commission, in coordination with the DepEd, the Commission on Higher
9 Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the
10 CSC shall develop and formulate a strategic and phased implementation plan
11 including the development of inclusive and context-sensitive learning modules,
12 teaching programs, and capacity-building initiatives tailored to the specific needs and
13 capabilities of educational institutions.

14 The integration of these topics shall be feasible, scalable, and sensitive to the
15 existing workload of educators and learners, while remaining consistent with the
16 objectives of this Act.

17 **SEC. 40. System of Incentives and Rewards.** – A system of special
18 incentives and rewards is hereby established to be given to appropriate government
19 agencies or instrumentalities that initiated and displayed compliance and full
20 participation in the meaningful implementation of this Act and promotes good
21 governance practices. The incentives and rewards may include, but not be limited to,
22 social projects, grants-in aid, national recognition, and similar entitlements. Criteria for
23 incentives shall be objective, transparent, performance-based, and aligned with
24 existing public sector performance management systems.

25
26 **CHAPTER X**
27 **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**
28

29 **SEC. 41. Implementing Authority.** – The FOI-PMO created under PCO
30 Department Order No. 018, s. 2017, Memorandum Order No. 10, s. 2016 and
31 Executive Order No. 02, s. 2016, shall undertake the implementation of the provisions
32 of this Act and implement the necessary organizational changes within the transition
33 period, or until a Chairperson has been appointed and has assumed office.

34 **SEC. 42. Effectivity of Existing Policies, Rules, and Regulations.** – All
35 existing policies, and rules and regulations of the FOI-PMO shall continue to remain
36 in full force and effect unless subsequently revoked, modified or amended by the
37 Commission.

38 All cases and appeals filed during the transition period shall continue to be
39 acted upon by the incumbent until transition shall have been completed and the
40 Commission’s operations are in place. Thereafter, the Commission shall

1 correspondingly assume jurisdiction over those cases and appeals.

2 **SEC. 43. *Transfer of Functions, Assets, and Obligations.*** – All transfer of
3 functions, assets, funds, personnel equipment, properties, transactions, and
4 personnel of the FOI-PMO, and the formulation and implementation of the internal
5 organic structures, staffing patterns, operations systems, and revised budgets of the
6 FOI-PMO, shall be completed within one hundred eighty (180) days from the
7 effectivity of the Act, during which existing personnel shall continue to assume their
8 posts in holdover capacities until new appointments are issued.

9 Accordingly, the following dispositive actions shall be implemented within 180
10 days from the effectivity of the Act:

- 11 (a) The allocation of existing equipment, funds, and other assets of the FOI-PMO
12 shall be transferred to the Commission;
- 13 (b) The records and pertinent transactions of the FOI-PMO shall be transferred to
14 the Commission; and,
- 15 (c) The Commission shall cause the creation of additional positions and augment
16 their budget appropriations, as may be necessary, with the approval of the
17 DBM.

18 The Commission shall be subrogated to all rights and assume all the liabilities
19 of the FOI-PMO.

20 **SEC. 44. *Absorption or Separation from Service of Employees of the***
21 ***Consolidated Agencies.*** – The existing employees of the FOI-PMO shall enjoy
22 security of tenure and may be absorbed subject to qualification standards, merit and
23 fitness principles, and applicable civil service rules.

24 Employees opting to be separated from the service as a consequence of the
25 consolidation and reconstitution under the provisions of the Act shall, within thirty (30)
26 days from their separation or phase out from the service, receive separation benefits
27 in accordance with existing laws. In addition, those who are qualified to retire shall be
28 allowed to retire and be entitled to all benefits provided, under any of the existing
29 retirement laws.

30 **SEC. 45. *Transition Period.*** – The transfer of functions, assets, funds,
31 equipment, properties, transactions, and personnel of the FOI-PMO, and the
32 formulation of the internal organic structure, staffing pattern, operating system of the
33 Commission shall be completed within one hundred eighty (180) days from the
34 effectivity of this Act, during which time, the existing personnel shall continue to
35 assume their posts and hold their positions in a regular capacity: *Provided*, That after
36 the abolition of the FOI-PMO, the Commission, in coordination with the DBM, shall
37 determine and create new positions, the funding requirement of which may exceed the
38 equivalent cost of positions abolished.

39 **SEC. 46. *Responsible Exercise of Rights and Performance of Duties.*** – In
40 the exercise of rights and the performance of duties under this Act, public officials and

1 employees, as well as citizens, shall act with justice, render to each person what is
2 due, and observe honesty and good faith. No right granted, or duty imposed under this
3 Act shall be exercised or performed in a manner that constitutes abuse.

4 **SEC. 47. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days
5 after the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall, in consultation with relevant
6 government agencies and instrumentalities, and stakeholders, promulgate the rules
7 and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

8 The IRR shall specify the roles, responsibilities, and procedures applicable to
9 both government agencies and instrumentalities, and private entities covered by this
10 Act, without prejudice to their existing legal obligations.

11 **SEC. 48. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial
12 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations
13 of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be
14 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

15 The LGUs concerned may provide the necessary funds for the purpose, in their
16 respective annual budgets.

17 **SEC. 49. Separability Clause.** – If any section or part of this Act is held
18 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall
19 remain in full force and effect.

20 **SEC. 50. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive order, rules and
21 regulations, issuances, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
22 are deemed repealed.

23 **SEC. 51. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

25

26 *Approved,*

FACT SHEET

(Approved by the Committee on 16 March 2026)

House Bill No. 9397

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 56, 259, 530, 634, 949, 1187, 2897, 3643, 4183, 4451, 4609, 4612, 4964, 5174, 5593, 5653, 6126, 6149, 6206, 6424, 6617, 6682, 6786, 6970, 7210, 7306, 8487, 8691, and 8744)

AN ACT

UPHOLDING THE PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND PROMOTING FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC INTEREST

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES LORDAN G. SUAN, MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING, BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN, ROY M. LOYOLA, PATRICK MICHAEL D. VARGAS, ADRIAN E. SALCEDA, NOEL "BONG" N. RIVERA, FERDINAND "B1" L. BELTRAN, RYAN S. RECTO, RUTH M. SAKALURAN, RACHEL MARGUERITE B. DEL MAR, RONALDO V. PUNO, EDUARDO R. RAMA JR., EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA, CRISPIN DIEGO D. REMULLA, NATHANIEL M. ODUCCADO, BRIAN POE, FRANZ S. PUMAREN, JESUS "JESS" R. MARQUEZ, LEILA M. DE LIMA, EDGAR R. ERICE, ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG, KAKA J. BAG-AO, JAIME R. FRESNEDI, CIELO KRISSEL LAGMAN, ALFONSO V. UMALI JR., ALFREDO "ALBEE" B. BENITEZ, BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE JR., OMAR VINCENT SANGKOLA DUTERTE, MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO, CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ, MARIA KRISTINA JIHAN B. GLEPA, JOSEPH KIM C. YU, JEYZEL VICTORIA C. YU, RAMIL LAUREL HERNANDEZ, AGATHA PAULA AGUILAR CRUZ, ERIC GO YAP, EDVIC G. YAP, KEITH MICAH "ATTY. MIKE" D.L. TAN, IRIS MARIE DEMESA MONTES, SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN, ELEANOR C. BULUT-BEGTANG, JUAN CARLOS "ARJO" C. ATAYDE, DE CARLO L. UY, MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, TSUYOSHI ANTHONY "HORI" G. HORIBATA, TERRY L. RIDON, ANTONIO L. TINIO, SARAH JANE I. ELAGO, RENEE LOUISE M. CO, MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON, ERIC L. OLIVAREZ, ELIJAH RUMBEO SAN FERNANDO, PERCIVAL "PERCI" CENDAÑA, JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO, DADAH KIRAM ISMULA, ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON, RICARDO S. CRUZ JR., KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN, REYNANTE U. ARROGANCIA, RAMON RODRIGO L. GUTIERREZ, JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA, ALBERT S. GARCIA, ARNIE B. FUENTEBELLA, MARIA ANGELA S. GARCIA, JOSEPH S. TAN, LORETO S. AMANTE, NICANOR M. BRIONES, MA. CRISTINA TALAVERA LOPEZ, FLORABEL C. YATCO, SITIE AMINAH Q. DIMAPORO, and JAIME EDUARDO MARC D. COJUANGCO

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION (Primary)

Committee Chairperson: Rep. LORDAN G. SUAN

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (Secondary)

Committee Chairperson: Rep. MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

OBJECTIVES:

- To uphold the constitutional provision on the right of people to information on matters of public concern, and the mandate of the State to implement a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest.
- To establish clear guidelines for the effective implementation and operationalization of the people's right to information as guaranteed under the 1987 Constitution.
- To ensure a lawful balance between access to information and the fundamental human right to privacy.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Covers all branches of the government, local government units, state universities and colleges, government -owned or -controlled corporations whether chartered or non-chartered, and other government instrumentalities, including bodies owned or controlled by any branch or agency of government;
- Applies to private entities that perform public functions, exercise delegated governmental authority, receive or use public funds, or hold records necessary to account for public transactions;
- Establishes an independent and quasi-judicial Right to Information (RTI) Commission to oversee the implementation, settle disputes through adjudication or mediation, and set operational standards for disclosure;
- Institutionalizes a centralized *Online RTI Portal*, to be administered by the RTI Commission, which will serve as the primary digital platform for submitting and processing requests for government information;
- Provides clear guidelines and processes for the filing and processing of RTI requests as well as mechanisms to remedy denial of request to allow citizens to exercise the full extent of their rights guaranteed by the Constitution;
- Mandates all government agencies and instrumentalities to proactively publish key information of public interest through their official websites and other accessible platforms;
- Clearly defines exceptions to disclosure to protect legitimate state and private interests, such as national security, law enforcement operations, privileged communications, trade secrets, and personal privacy;
- Enumerates the offenses and the corresponding penalties that can be imposed on government agencies and instrumentalities for refusal or failure to comply with the provisions stipulated therein; and

- Provides for the protection of persons who disclose information in good faith regarding wrongdoing, corruption, or serious threats to public health and safety from legal or employment-related sanctions.

RELATED LAWS:

- Article III, Section 7 (Right to Information) and Article II, Section 28 (Policy of Full Public Disclosure) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution
- Republic Act No. 12231 or the “Government Optimization Act” of 2025
- Republic Act No. 11032 or the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”
- Republic Act No. 10173 or the “Data Privacy Act of 2012”
- Republic Act No. 7160 or the “Local Government Code of 1991”
- Republic Act No. 6981 or the “Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act” of 1991
- Republic Act No. 6713 or the “Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees” of 1989
- Republic Act No. 6656 or “An Act to Protect the Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and Employees in the Implementation of Government Reorganization” of 1988
- Executive Order No. 02, s. 2016, Operationalizing in the Executive Branch the People’s Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies to Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service and Providing Guidelines Therefor