



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3960

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO**

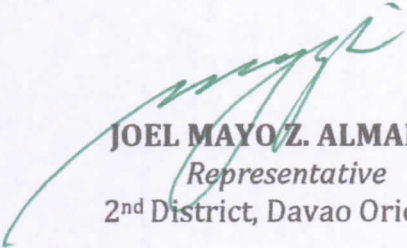
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill mandates all franchise grantees and industries that deliver services to the general public using wires and cables to move their cables underground, or to utilize color coded wires clearly identifying the company to which it belongs. Further, this bill directs relevant government agencies to disconnect and detach from utility poles all wires and cables that have not been moved underground, nor identified and color coded by any franchise grantee within the time frame allowed by this bill.

Modern cities and highly developed countries are commonly free of wires and cables that stretch across the sky. However, in the Philippines, power lines and power posts are the norm, lining city streets and communities nationwide. The numerous hanging wires and cables are not only eyesores, but a hazard to public safety. During typhoons, wires and poles topple over, causing power and communication interruptions. This affects the quality of life of the citizens, the economic activities of the country, and the general safety and security of the populace. This is without mentioning the actual physical danger caused by poles falling - including property destruction, bodily injuries, electrocution, or even death. Clearly, there are numerous issues about the reliability of overhead lines that can be addressed by relocating overhead cables underground.

However, recognizing that not all franchise grantees are immediately capable of repositioning their cables, an option of color coding the wires is also given by this bill. This addresses the issue of jumbled cables as the unidentified cables may be detached from the poles, lessening the unnecessary hanging cables.

A similar version of this bill was filed during the 17th Congress. Support for this bill is again earnestly sought.


JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental



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AN ACT REQUIRING ALL FRANCHISE GRANTEES USING WIRES AND CABLES IN THE OPERATION OF THEIR BUSINESSES TO RELOCATE ALL WIRES AND CABLES UNDERGROUND OR USE COLORED WIRES AND CABLES TO IDENTIFY THEIR CORPORATION, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Wire*
2 *Organization Act of 2019.*”

3
4 **SECTION 2. *Scope*** – Within a period of five (5) years from the effectivity
5 of this Act, all franchise grantees engaged in the business of providing telephone,
6 cable, internet service and power supply to the public, and all other industries that
7 use wires and cables in the operation of their business within the Philippines are
8 hereby required to relocate all its wires and cables underground, or to use colored
9 wires and cables clearly identifying their companies. Should colored wires and cables
10 be unavailable, visible colored tags may also be attached to existing wires: *Provided,*
11 *however,* that those who shall commence the operation of the business referred to
12 herein, subsequent to the effectivity of this Act shall comply with the provision of
13 this Act as soon as the operation of the business is started.

14 The franchise grantees shall use wires and cables that are safe, modern,
15 and of highest standards. All wires and cables shall be carefully and
16 systematically connected, fastened, and insulated to assure physical safety to
17 the public. Should colored tags be used, each must be securely attached to the

1 The franchise grantees shall use wires and cables that are safe, modern, and
2 of highest standards. All wires and cables shall be carefully and systematically
3 connected, fastened, and insulated to assure physical safety to the public. Should
4 colored tags be used, each must be securely attached to the companies' existing
5 wires and cables and must be placed not more than one (1) meter apart for easy
6 visibility and identification.

7
8 **SECTION 3. *Disconnection of Unused Wires*** – It shall be presumed that all
9 cables and wires that have not been color coded within three (3) months from the
10 end of the five-year period provided in the immediately preceding section are
11 unusable and out of service. In such case, the relevant government departments
12 shall endeavor to dismantle and remove said inoperative wires.

13
14 **SECTION 4. *Penalties*** – Any franchise grantee found in violation of the
15 provision of this Act shall be punished with a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand
16 (P50,000.00) Pesos for each day of non-compliance commencing on:

- 17 a. The first day immediately after the period of five years fixed in
18 Section 2 of this Act in the case of a franchise grantee whose
19 business is operational prior to the effectivity of this Act; and
20 b. From the date the violation is committed, up to and including the
21 date of the full compliance with the provisions of this Act in the
22 case of franchise grantees whose operations shall start
23 subsequent to the effectivity of this Act.

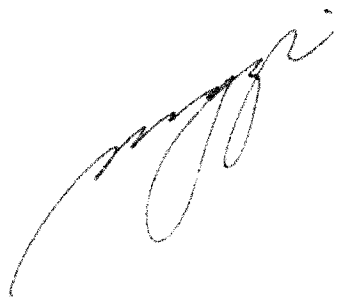
24
25 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – Within ninety (90) days from
26 the passage of this Act, the Department of Public Works and Highways, in
27 cooperation with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders shall
28 promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the full implementation of this
29 Act.

1 **SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
2 regulations, other issuances or parts thereof incompatible with this Act are hereby
3 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4
5 **SECTION 6. *Separability Clause*** – The invalidity, unconstitutionality or
6 unenforceability of any provision of this Act shall in no way affect the validity or
7 enforceability of any other provisions hereof.

8
9 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
11 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the word "Approved."