

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9614



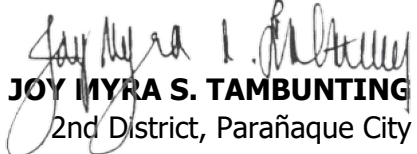
Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State seeks to provide at all times efficient, speedy and inexpensive local and national government services to all and ensure the accessibility and reliability of government information and resources. It is thus the policy of the State to exert utmost effort in democratizing information, streamlining transactions, and ensuring that all major and frontline government services are available to the Filipino people through various media Including the internet and with software applications which can be navigated by a general application in coordination with all government agencies and instrumentalities.

This bill seeks to create Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application (TUGMA) which shall be an online comprehensive portal of each government agency and instrumentality designed to facilitate the acquisition of government information, services or some other benefit. It shall provide users with basic things and other helpful information about the country's major frontline government services and their associated agencies. It shall also be used to redirect users to specific government applications, websites, or other platforms to streamline transactions, process requests, provide information, and extend any other beneficial use made possible through the implementation of modern technologies and systems.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 9614

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TRANSCENDENT UNIFIED GOVERNMENT MOBILE APPLICATION
FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES, SETTING A FRAMEWORK AND COMMON STANDARDS
FOR GOVERNMENT MOBILE APPLICATIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Government Mobile Applications Act”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State seeks to provide at all times efficient, speedy and inexpensive local and national government services to all and ensure the accessibility and reliability of government information and resources. It is thus the policy of the State to exert utmost effort in democratizing information, streamlining transactions, and ensuring that all major and frontline government services are available to the Filipino people through various media including the Internet and with software applications which can be navigated by a general application in coordination with all government agencies and instrumentalities. The State recognizes the value of open data and content, usability and user experience, ease of data exchange, and shall ensure user safety through appropriate technical measures, and uphold data privacy rights in the pursuit of these ideals.

Section 3. Government Mobile Application Defined. – A government mobile application hereinafter referred to as "GMA", and defined as a software program created and implemented by a government agency or instrumentality that can be run on a mobile phone, tablet, or other similar device and is designed to provide or facilitate the acquisition of government information, services, or some other benefit, shall be created and utilized by each government agency and instrumentality. A GMA may be agency-centric or citizen-centric. Agency-centric GMAs are applications intended for internal use of a government agency or instrumentality to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. Citizen-centric GMAs are for the general public to enable real-time public engagement and service.

Section 4. Government Mobile Applications Steering Committee. – There is hereby established a Steering Committee composed of the following members:

- a) Secretary of Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), as Chairperson;
- b) National Statistician and Head of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); and
- c) Commissioner of the National Privacy Commission (NPC) and representatives from the following agencies:
 - d) Philippine Communications Operations Office (PCOO);
 - e) Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO);
 - f) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
 - g) Department of National Defense (DND);
 - h) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
 - i) Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
 - j) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
 - k) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
 - l) Department of Tourism (DOT);
 - m) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
 - n) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
 - o) Department of Justice (DOJ); and
 - p) Department of Finance (DOF).

The Steering Committee may, in the exercise of its functions and as it may deem necessary, invite representatives from other relevant government agencies and instrumentalities to serve as resource persons.

The DICT Secretary, as Chair of the Steering Committee and lead developer of the TUGMA, may designate an office within the Department to act as Secretariat for purposes of assisting the Steering Committee in monitoring compliance and conducting periodic reviews.

Section 5. Functions of the Steering Committee. – The Steering Committee shall:

- a) Develop and implement policies for the creation and use of GMAs to pursue within the framework of Philippine law;
- b) Establish the uniform standards to be observed by all GMAs and digital service platforms, guided by the principles enunciated in this Act;
- c) Prescribe the information and interface GMAs shall contain and display;
- d) Serve as the overall implementing body of the Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application (TUGMA), as well be hereinafter created;
- e) Conduct application security and assessment of all GMAs and digital service platforms that will connect to TUGMA and will access local government services and information;
- f) Monitor and require compliance from government agencies and centers with respect to the policies, guidelines, and standards prescribed by the Steering Committee;
- g) Conduct periodic reviews of the administration, operation, policies, rules, and regulations governing GMAs, and update the same In order to reflect the best practices and standards; and
- h) Perform other functions germane or related to the above-mentioned primary functions and the declared policy of this Act.

Section 6. Uniform Standards. – In line with the declared policy of this Act, all GMAs shall hereby observe the following uniform standards and characteristics:

- a) Open data and content;
- b) Usability and user experience;
- c) Ease of internal and external data exchange;
- d) Economical use of budget and resources;
- e) Intelligibility;
- f) Correctness;
- g) Dependability;
- h) Efficiency;
- i) Adaptability;
- j) Multi-lingual functionality;
- k) Wide-compatibility and interoperability; and
- l) Any other standard or quality that will be set by the Steering Committee, which shall be consistent with this Act.

Section 7. Standardization of Data Structure. – The DICT shall prescribe a standardized framework of data and data infrastructure which shall be observed among government agencies and instrumentalities and shall facilitate the efficient exchange of data in a useful format based on common standards. This shall ensure that all of the data can be used reliably for different types of analyses and purposes, including the creation of GMAs.

Section 8. Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application. – The Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application hereinafter referred to as "TUGMA", is hereby created and shall be an online comprehensive portal designed to provide users with basic things such as the contact details, requirements, citizen's charters, news, bulletins, and other helpful information about the country major frontline government services and their associated agencies. It shall also be used to redirect users to specific government applications, websites, or other platforms to streamline transactions, process requests, provide information, and extend any other beneficial use made possible through the implementation of modern technologies and systems.

Section 9. Lead Developer. – The DICT shall be the lead agency tasked with the design, development, implementation, distribution, maintenance, and improvement of TUGMA. In line with the agency's "Philippine Digital Transformation Strategy 2022", the creation of TUGMA shall pave way to delivering an environment wherein government agencies will be encouraged and incentivized to create their own applications for all major frontline services and collaborate in the context of their respective functions and objectives.

Section 10. Services and Features of TUGMA. – TUGMA shall:

- a) Provide information and details regarding the different national agencies, local government units, and their frontline programs including the services that they offer, their contact information, addresses, service requirements, and citizen's charters;
- b) Enable Its users to apply, register, or otherwise avail of frontline government services and other facilities by being directed to specific applications, websites, or platforms that directly cater to their needs;

- c) Facilitate government transactions by streamlining appointments with government offices and the processing of documents, papers, reports, certificates, deeds, information; and other requests;
- d) Contain or provide access to Information regarding available public services, facilities, functions, and other benefits of the government;
- e) Produce a versatile interface with a focus on maximizing usability and enriching user experience;
- f) Reduce unnecessary expenditures by consolidating, if deemed prudent by the Steering Committee, various services and GMAs already being provided;
- g) Function as an avenue wherein one may raise complaints, comments, and suggestions concerning governmental functions;
- h) Fulfill any other function the Steering Committee may hereinafter provide consistent with the aforementioned declaration of policy; and
- i) Provide users with information regarding the purpose and extend of the processing of their personal data in relation to their transactions, including where applicable, any data sharing, profiling, direct marketing, or the existence of automated decision-making, as well as any other authorized further process.

Section 11. Philippine Identification System Integration. – The Philippine Identification System, as established by Republic Act No. 11055 otherwise known as the Philippine Identification System Act, shall be integrated with TUGMA and shall form as the basis for registering and authenticating the identity of a particular person for purposes of using the TUGMA and to ensure security and privacy.

Section 12. National Government Portal Integration. – The National Government Portal (NGP) of the DICT is hereby integrated, combined, or otherwise absorbed by TUGMA and shall thus also include access to local government services and information. To ensure maximum reach, access, and usability, the DICT shall make TUGMA available on a website and as a desktop application, aside from the mobile interface.

Government agencies and instrumentalities, if directed by the Steering Committee, shall:

- a) Integrate their online services and GMAs with TUGMA;
- b) Form or designate an agency web administration team from permanent personnel;
- c) Operate, maintain, and manage their respective online services integrated into the NGP; and
- d) Produce regularly updated content for integration with TUGMA.

Section 13. Appropriations. – The funding requirements for the Initial Implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's budget of the DICT. Thereafter, it shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 14. Penal Clause. – Any unauthorized, fraudulent or unlawful use of data and information in all GMAs and digital service platforms that will connect to TUGMA and anyone who willfully violate any provision of this Act shall be held liable under the pertinent provisions of the Data Privacy Act (RA 10173), Cybercrime Prevention Act (RA 10175), and other relevant laws.

Section 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Steering Committee shall convene and shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 16. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

Section 17. Repealing Clause. – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts or provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

Section 18. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication In the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,