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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS Second Regular Session RECEIVED DATE MAR 0 6 2024 BIT TWEETS

## HOUSE BILL NOL GOG3

Introduced by Representatives Joey Sarte Salceda, Rodolfo "Ompong" M. Ordanes, Alfelito "Alfel" M. Bascug, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora Maria J. Zamora, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Sergio C. Dagooc, Erwin T. Tulfo, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Allan U. Ty, Gus S. Tambunting, Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Lordan G. Suan, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Wilter Y. Palma, Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, Jose C. Alvarez, Ron P. Salo, Ray T. Reyes, Midy N. Cua, Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" R. Luistro, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Ambrocio C. Cruz, Jr., Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, and Dale B. Corvera

#### **ANACT**

### PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND PWD SERVICES IN THE EGOV PH SUPER APP

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the age of digitization and technological advancement, bridging the digital divide is crucial, especially for vulnerable sectors, such as senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

This bill is a product of five (5) joint deliberations of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Senior Citizens, and the Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities regarding their motu proprio inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation gaps regarding Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003," and Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disability," and policies that provide discounts, incentives, and tax exemptions for senior citizens and PWDs.

The Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) launched the eGov PH Super App in December 2022. The platform offers a comprehensive single portal for multi-sectoral government transactions and services, aiming to streamline access to government documents, permits, identifications, and clearances, thereby enhancing the ease of doing business for the public.

Recognizing the importance of inclusivity in digital governance, this bill seeks to integrate a dedicated section within the eGov PH Super App which shall cater to the specific needs of senior citizens and PWDs, and offer tailored services, information, and resources to empower them to navigate through available government offerings independently and confidently.

Moreover, the government may also utilize the eGov PH Super App to establish an alternative identity verification system and alleviate the need for presenting purchase booklets in order to facilitate the access of senior citizens and PWDs to benefits without undue hindrance. This can be achieved by seamlessly integrating the discount system into the sales processes of establishments, thus streamlining the granting of discount for the vulnerable sectors.

Given the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

REP. JOEY SA SALCEDA Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means REP. RODOLFO ONG" ORDANES Chairperson, Committee on Senior Citizens REP. ALFELITO "ALFEL" M. CUG Chairperson, Committee on Persons with Disabilities mo YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA **REP. MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY REP. SERGIÓ C. DAGOOC** REP. ERWIN T TULFO REP. MIKAELA B SUANSING REP. TEODORICO T. HÁRESCO, JR. NGELA AN U. **REP. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING** CORVERA LORDA

REP. ALL

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REP. RUTUS/B. RODR

REP. ROS **ERGARA** 

REP. RO P. SALO

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REP. MIDY N. CUA

REP. SAMUEL S. VERZOSA, JR.

**REP. JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO** 

**REP. WILTER Y. PAL** REP. JOSE C. ALVAREZ

**REP. RAY T. REYES** 

**REP. GERVILLE " JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO** 

۰C PEP. AMBROSIO C. CRUZ, JR.

**REP. RAMON RODRIG** L. GUTIERREZ

REP. MARIO VITTORIO "MARVEY" A. MARIÑO

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS Second Regular Session

# HOUSE BILL NO. 10063

Introduced by Representatives Joey Sarte Salceda, Rodolfo "Ompong" M. Ordanes, Alfelito "Alfel" M. Bascug, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Sergio C. Dagooc, Erwin T. Tulfo, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Teoderico T. Haresco, Jr., Allan U. Ty, Gus S. Tambunting, Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Lordan G. Suan, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Wilter Y. Palma, Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, Jose C. Alvarez, Ron P. Salo, Ray T. Reyes, Midy N. Cua, Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" R. Luistro, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Ambrocio C. Cruz, Jr., Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, and Dale B. Corvera

#### AN ACT

#### PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND PWD SERVICES IN THE EGOV PH SUPER APP

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy*. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
 recognize and uphold the fundamental rights of Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities
 (PWDs), ensuring their equal access to government services and acknowledging their invaluable
 contributions to society.

The State shall promote inclusivity, equity, and accessibility in using technology so that
Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) can readily access and benefit from
government services through user-friendly and tailored digital platforms.

8 SEC. 2. *EGov PH Super App*. The Department of Information and Communications
9 Technology (DICT) shall incorporate a dedicated section within the eGov PH Super App platform
10 specifically designed for Senior Citizens and PWDs, which shall include the following:

- 11 (a) access to various government services, including healthcare and social services;
- 12 (b) informational resources on their rights and benefits; and
- 13 (c) a user-friendly interface with adjustable text sizes, voice assistance, and other
  14 accessibility features.
- 15The eGov PH SuperApp shall serve as an alternative means for Senior Citizens and PWDs
- 16 to apply for their identification cards (IDs) and access any government services.

Senior Citizens and PWDs may continue to avail of government services and assistance
 through their respective local government units.

SEC. 3. *Identify Verification System for Senior Citizens and PWDs*. In cases where Senior Citizens and PWDs do not possess their Senior Citizen and PWD IDs or mobile phones while availing discounts and accessing government services through establishments utilizing the eGov PH SuperApp, an alternative identity verification system shall be established to facilitate their access to benefits without undue hindrance. The alternative identity verification process shall include, but not be limited to, the following methods:

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- (a) personal identification through relevant information, such as full name, date of birth, address, or any other identifiable details available within the eGov PH Super App database, validated through personal questioning by authorized personnel; or
- (b) biometric verification methods, including fingerprint scanning or facial recognition, if
  available and applicable, to confirm the identity of the Senior Citizen and PWD.

14 SEC. 5. *Information Officer*. The DICT shall assign an Information Officer who shall 15 ensure that the ICT systems for Senior Citizens and PWDs are developed, implemented, secured, 16 and compliant with standards set by the DICT, and in accordance with relevant laws, rules, and 17 regulations, including Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the "Data Privacy Act of 18 2012."

- **19** The Information Officer shall perform the following functions:
- (a) Develop and supervise policies, strategies, and programs to enhance the accessibility,
   usability, and inclusivity of digital services provided to Senior Citizens and PWDs
   through the eGov PH SuperApp;
- (b) Coordinate with government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, advocacy
   groups, and experts on the welfare of Senior Citizens and PWDs to address the unique
   needs and challenges they face in utilizing digital platforms and to conduct training
   programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns about the functionalities of using
   digital services available through the eGov PH SuperApp;
- (c) Implement measures to ensure that the features for Senior Citizens and PWDs within
   the eGov PH Super App comply with accessibility standards, including varying levels
   of technological literacy and visual impairments; and

- (d) Assess and improve the features for Senior Citizens and PWDs within the eGov PH
   Super App in response to their feedback, technical capabilities, and changing needs.
- The recruitment, selection, and appointment of this Information Officer shall be in accordance with the civil service law, rules and regulations, and the competency standards prescribed by the DICT.
- 6 SEC. 6. *Tax Administration*. For purposes of tax monitoring compliance, business 7 establishments shall record on the eGov PH Super App the transactions related to the goods 8 purchased and services performed with twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from value-9 added tax (VAT) granted to Senior Citizens and PWDs.
- SEC. 7. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any section, clause, or term of this Act is
   held to be illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such declaration shall
   remain in full force and effect.
- SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause*. All laws, presidential decrees, issuance, executive orders,
   letters of instruction, rules, or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
   repealed or modified accordingly.
- SEC. 9. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
   Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
- 18 Approved,

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