

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 46

Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF PLAIN LANGUAGE IN ALL GOVERNMENT ISSUED PUBLIC ADVISORIES, NOTICES, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SIMILAR DOCUMENTS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION

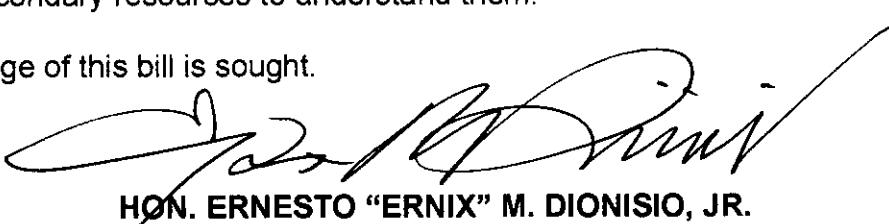
EXPLANATORY NOTE

To ensure that all citizens are able to effectively understand and participate in the democratic processes of the Republic of the Philippines, the government should always aspire to make itself more accessible to all peoples. To achieve this, communication between the former and the latter must be in general terms, unless the situation requires the use of more technical words.

However, the government must ensure that relevant information reaches the masses lest it alienates them from vital knowledge.

This bill, thus, seeks to introduce mechanisms in place, upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, to ensure that government issuances are easy to understand, without the need to resort to secondary resources to understand them.

In view of this, the passage of this bill is sought.



HON. ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.
Representative
First Congressional District of Manila



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 48

Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF PLAIN LANGUAGE IN ALL GOVERNMENT ISSUED PUBLIC ADVISORIES, NOTICES, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SIMILAR DOCUMENTS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION

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 "Plain Language in Government Documents Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - In recognition of the vital role of communication and information in nation-building, all documents and communications from the government intended for public dissemination and distribution shall be clear, comprehensible, concise, and language-accessible. The citizenry must be able to easily understand and use the information presented in such documents.

SECTION 3. Plain Language in All Government Documents. - To ensure the widest accessibility, clarity and easy understanding of public information, all national government agencies, offices, instrumentalities, including government-owned and-controlled corporations (GOCCS), are hereby mandated to adopt the use of plain language in English, Filipino and/or other regional languages or dialects, as may be deemed necessary, for all covered documents under this Act. For this purpose, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) is hereby tasked with the duty of monitoring and ensuring the implementation of this plain language requirement. For GOCCs, the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) shall be the agency tasked to perform this duty.

SECTION 4. Scope of Application. - The following are the documents issued by the government intended for public dissemination and distribution covered by this Act:

- a. Advisories;
- b. Notices;
- c. Announcements;
- d. Bulletins;
- e. Forms and other papers for the application, request or enjoyment of a public service, right, privilege, benefit, license, clearance, permit, etc.;
- f. The agency's citizens' charter;
- g. Documents detailing and explaining a government program, activity or project;
- h. Replies and responses to an inquiry or request for assistance or information; and
- i. Any other document that the CSC or GCG as the case may be, in consultation with the agency or office concerned, deems as important to be included in this Act's coverage.

SECTION 5. Training and Capacity-Building. - The CSC and GCG shall regularly conduct trainings, seminars and other similar capacity-building activities for the offices and agencies covered by this Act. For plain language In Filipino and other regional languages or dialects, the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) shall be tapped to facilitate the necessary capacity-building activities.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CSC and GCG, in coordination with the KWF, the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) day after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,