

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 646



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

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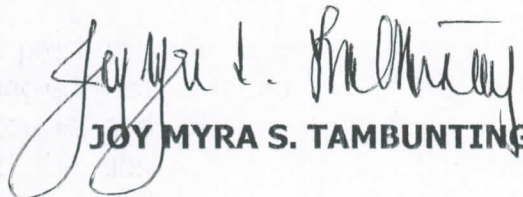
#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to require all electric, cable and telecommunications companies to conduct periodic inspections of their respective aerial utility line installations and to fix or remove all old unused aerial utility lines to ensure strict compliance with the standards and regulations provided under the Philippine Electrical Code.

One of the greatest ironies in the present world where everything seems to go wireless, is to see the grotesquely tangled mess of aerial wires and cables that hang from the utility posts of our towns and cities. Over the years, the accumulation of wires and cables, and the absence of regular inspection and monitoring by the utility companies, have caused some utility posts to lean and collapse, unable to support the excessive load of utility wires. Oftentimes, these wires and cables pose dangers to the life and limbs of the people in the area.

It is for this reason that this measure is proposed to mandate all electric, cable and telecommunications companies like MERALCO, PLDT, Bayantel, Skycable, to conduct periodic inspection of their respective aerial utility line installations, and ensure strict compliance with the standards and regulations under the Philippine Electrical Code. The proposed law will also require government agencies exercising jurisdiction over these installations to monitor the height clearance requirements for the safety of the public.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

  
**JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**





1       **SECTION 2.** All cities and municipalities, through their respective city or  
2       municipal engineers, or any person authorized by the city or municipality to act on  
3       their behalf, shall ensure that every utility companies, within their territorial  
4       jurisdiction, comply with the provision of Section 1 of this Act. The city or  
5       municipality may withhold the renewal of the corresponding business licenses or  
6       permits for erring companies that fail to comply with the standards set forth in RA  
7       7920 and its implementing rules and regulations.

8       **SECTION 3.** The city or municipal engineer, or the authorized representative  
9       of such city or municipality, in addition to the authority to withhold the grant or  
10      renewal of licenses or business permits, may file a complaint against the electric,  
11      cable and telecommunications company which fails to conduct periodic inspection of  
12      its respective aerial utility line installations or to fix or bundle up its utility lines or  
13      remove all old and unused lines in violation of the standards and regulations  
14      provided under the Philippine Electrical Code before the court of competent  
15      jurisdiction. An administrative complaint under the Local Government Code, may  
16      likewise be filed by any person against the city or municipal engineer who fails to  
17      monitor the compliance of electric, cable and telecommunications companies with  
18      the standards and regulations provided under the Philippine Electrical Code.

19      **SECTION 4.** In addition to the civil liabilities prescribed by Article 2176 of  
20      the civil code on quasi-delict and the penalties prescribed by Article 365 of the  
21      revised penal code on criminal negligence, the electric, cable or telecommunications  
22      company which violates the provisions of Section 1 of this Act, shall be punished  
23      with a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not  
24      more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) for the first offense; a  
25      fine of not less than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) but not more

1 than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) for the second offense; and a fine  
2 of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than One  
3 million pesos (P1,000,000.00) for the third and succeeding offenses.

4 **SECTION 5.** The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall, in  
5 coordination and consultation with the Secretaries of Information and  
6 Communications Technology, Public Works and Highways, and the Board of  
7 Electrical Engineering, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
8 implementation of this Act.

9 **SECTION 6.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or  
10 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
11 amended or modified accordingly.

12 **SECTION 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
13 in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

14 **Approved,**