

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3126



Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS

AN ACT
MANDATING THE USE AND UTILIZATION OF ON-GRID SOLAR ENERGY
SYSTEMS IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT-OWNED BUILDINGS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution underscores the State's duty to protect and promote the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology, in harmony with nature. This constitutional mandate compels both the government and society to pursue policies that safeguard environmental sustainability for present and future generations.

On the global stage, the Philippines is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change that entered into force on 4 November 2016. The agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius—preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius—above pre-industrial levels. However, the Emissions Gap Report 2022 by the UN Environment Programme warns that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is no longer plausible under current trajectories. To avert climate catastrophe, global emissions must be reduced by 45% by 2030. Achieving this requires rapid, system-wide transformations—particularly in the energy sector.

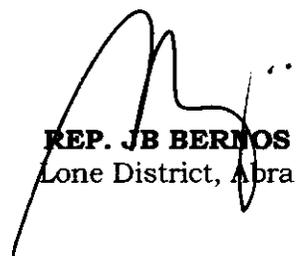
Among the most viable solutions is the accelerated shift toward renewable energy sources, with solar energy emerging as one of the most accessible and sustainable options. Solar power harnesses the sun's heat and light, offering a clean, renewable,

and inexhaustible energy source. It produces no greenhouse gas emissions during operation, significantly reducing our carbon footprint and reliance on fossil fuels.

Recent years have seen a marked decrease in the cost of solar panel technology, making solar installations increasingly affordable and feasible. With a typical lifespan of 25 to 30 years, solar panels are a long-term investment that delivers both environmental and economic benefits.

Integrating on-grid solar energy systems in national and local government buildings presents an immediate and practical step toward climate resilience. Doing so will not only reduce public sector carbon emissions but will also demonstrate leadership in the country's transition to clean energy.

In view of the urgent need to combat climate change and promote sustainable energy solutions, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District, Abra

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

SECTION. 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*On-grid Solar Energy Systems Act*”.

SECTION. 2. **Declaration of Policies.** – It shall be declared the policy of the State:

- a.) To reduce the cost of electric usage in government owned buildings;
- b.) To mandate the utilization of solar energy resources in government owned buildings and offices;
- c.) To ensure a sustainable and environmentally sound manner of delivering services to our people;

SECTION. 3. **Coverage.** – This act shall provide a framework for establishing on-grid solar energy systems in all government owned buildings and offices.

SECTION. 4. **Establishment of On-Grid Solar Energy Systems in National and Local Government-Owned Buildings and Offices.** – All government agencies, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Energy (DOE), shall begin construction and installation of on-grid solar

energy systems in and retrofit their respective buildings and offices with one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act;

SECTION. 5. **Definition of Terms.** -

a.) Government-owned buildings - All buildings wholly owned by the National Government or any Local Government Unit that is utilized for its operation.

b.) On-Grid Solar Energy Systems - Solar Energy Systems shall refer to energy systems that convert solar energy into thermal or electrical energy that do not require batteries for power storage.

c.) Average Monthly Utilization (AMU) - refers to the average number of kilowatt hours utilized in one month.

SECTION. 6. **Policy.** - The government agencies concerned shall ensure that twenty percent (20%) of its AMU is covered by the On-Grid Solar Energy Systems to be installed within one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act.

Thereafter, Forty percent (40%) of its AMU within the second year;

Sixty percent (60%) of its AMU within the third year;

Eighty percent (80%) of its AMU within the fourth year; and,

One Hundred percent (100%) of its AMU in the fifth year.

SECTION. 7. **Funding.** - The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be charged against any available funds of the government agencies covered by this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). The installation of On-Grid Solar Energy Systems shall be performed by DOE-accredited installers in accordance with Government Procurement Laws.

SECTION. 8. **Penalty.** - Failure to abide to the provisions of this Act shall hold the Head of said Government agencies administratively liable.

SECTION. 9. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Energy shall provide the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation within thirty (30) days upon the approval of this Act. Rules and regulations shall take effect after they have been made and shall be published in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION. 10. **Separability Clause.** - Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof, as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION. 11. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations or parts that are contrary to and inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 12. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,