

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5545**



Introduced by REP. Michael L. Romero and Enrico A. Pineda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is imperative that the state shall prioritize and implement the mandates of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT):

I. Policy and Planning

- (1)** Formulate, recommend and implement national policies, plans, programs and guidelines that will promote the development and use of ICT with due consideration to the advantages of convergence and emerging technologies;
- (2)** Formulate policies and initiatives, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepED), The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), to develop and promote ICT in education consistent with the national goals and objectives., and responsive to the human resource needs of the ICT and ICT-ES sectors;
- (3)** Provide an integrated framework in order to optimize all government ICT resources and networks for the identification and prioritization of all E-Government systems and

applications as provided for in the E-Government Masterplan and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP);

II. Improved Public Access

(4) Prescribe rules and regulations for the establishment, operation and maintenance of ICT infrastructures in unserved and underserved areas, in consultation with the local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector, and the academe;

(5) Establish a free internet service that can be accessed in government offices and public areas using the most cost-effective telecommunications technology, through partnership with private service providers as may be necessary;

III. Resource-Sharing and Capacity-Building

(6) Harmonize and coordinate all national ICT plans and initiatives to ensure knowledge, information and resource-sharing, database-building and agency networking linkages among government agencies, consistent with E-Government objectives in particular, and national objectives in general;

(7) Ensure the development and protection of integrated government ICT infrastructures and designs, taking into consideration the inventory of existing manpower, plans, programs, software, hardware, and installed systems;

(8) Assist and provide technical expertise to government agencies in the development of guidelines in the enforcement and administration of laws, standards, rules, and regulations governing ICT;

(9) Assess, review and support ICT research and development programs of the government in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and other institutions concerned;

(10) Prescribe the personnel qualifications and other qualification standards essential to the effective development and operation of government ICT infrastructures and systems;

(11) Develop programs that would enhance the career advancement opportunities of ICT workers in government;

(12) Assist in the dissemination of vital information essential to disaster risk reduction through the use of ICT;

(13) Represent and negotiate for Philippine interest on matters pertaining to ICT in international bodies, in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other institutions concerned;

IV. Consumer Protection and Industry Development

(14) Ensure and protect the rights and welfare of consumers and business users to privacy, security and confidentiality in matters relating to ICT, in coordination with agencies concerned, the private sector and relevant international bodies;

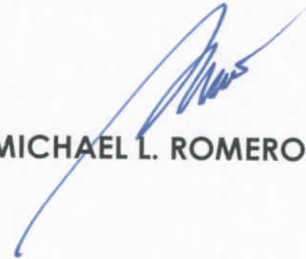
(15) Support the promotion of trade and investment opportunities in the ICT and ICT-ES sectors, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and other relevant government agencies and the private sector;

(16) Establish guidelines for public-private partnerships in the implementation of ICT projects for government agencies; and

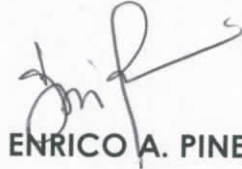
(17) Promote strategic partnerships and alliances between and among local and international ICT, research and development, educational and training institutions, to speed up industry growth and enhance competitiveness of Philippine workers, firms, and small and medium enterprises in the global markets for ICT and ICT-ES.

This House Bill seeks to provide additional organizational and operational funding to promote the imposition and Implement laws, policies, plans, programs, projects, rules and regulations of the DICT; and to provide efficient and effective services to the Filipino people.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D



ENRICO A. PINEDA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5545**

Introduced by REP. Michael L. Romero and Enrico A. Pineda

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL AND
OPERATIONAL FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT), TO PROMOTE COST-
EFFICIENT ICT INFRASTRUCTURES AND PROJECTS, TO FOSTER GLOBAL
COMPETITIVENESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the
Philippines in congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared by the state
to appropriate additional organizational and operational funding for the
Department of Information and Communications technology.

The state shall hereby recognize:

- (a)** The vital role of information and communication in nation-
building;

- (b)** To ensure the provision of £ strategic, reliable, cost-efficient and. citizen-centric information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, systems and resources as instruments of good governance and global competitiveness;
- (c)** To ensure universal access to quality, affordable, reliable and secure Id' services;
- (d)** To promote the development and widespread use of emerging ICT and foster and accelerate the convergence of ICT and ICT-enabled facilities;
- (e)** To ensure the availability and accessibility of ICT services in areas not adequately served by the private sector
- (f)** To foster an ICT sector policy environment that will promote a broad market-led development of the ICT and ICT-enabled services (ICT-ES) sectors, a level playing field, partnership between the public and private sectors, strategic alliance with foreign investors and balanced investments between high-growth and economically-depressed areas;
- (g)** To promote and assist the development of local ICT content, applications and services which may include support for ICT-based start-up enterprises through strategic partnerships;
- (h)** To promote the use of ICT for the enhancement of key public services, such as education, public health and safety, revenue generation, and socio-civic purposes;

- (i) To encourage the use of ICT for the development and promotion of the country's arts and culture, tourism and national identity;
- (j) To promote digital literacy, ICT expertise, and knowledge-building among citizens to enable them to participate and compete in an evolving ICT age;
- (k) To empower, through the use of ICT, the disadvantaged segments of the population, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and indigenous and minority groups;
- (l) To ensure the rights of individuals to privacy and confidentiality of their personal information;
- (m) To ensure the security of critical ICT infrastructures including information assets of the government, individuals and businesses; and
- (n) To provide oversight over agencies governing and regulating the ICT sector and ensure consumer protection and welfare, data privacy and security, foster competition and the growth of the ICT sector.

Additional requirements shall be charged to the appropriations under the current General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 2. Appropriations – The amount of Five hundred million pesos (**₱500,000,000.00**) shall hereby be appropriated as additional organizational and operational funding to carry-out the mandates of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 4. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,