

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6248**



Introduced by Manila Teachers Representative
VIRGILIO S. LACSON

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The indispensable role of the internet in advancing economic development and societal growth can no longer be denied. Its apparent socioeconomic value of facilitating communication and connectivity further accelerates information and knowledge transfer from one individual or a group to another. As such, the United Nations has identified internet access as a fundamental human right. A human right that enables individuals to express their right to freedom of opinion and expression.

In education, internet connectivity improves learning experience by providing students, scholars, teachers and academicians unlimited access to educational resources available online. Student and teachers alike can extend learning contact hours through cloud sharing in which an instructor uploads files, reading materials and lectures which the students can access online anywhere and anytime that is convenient and conducive for the learner.

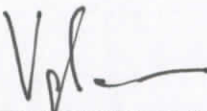
In business, the internet empowers businesses by accelerating business development by having better services, ease in doing business and having access to new opportunities for innovation and expansion.

In the case of the Philippines, the country ranks poorly in terms of broadband speed rankings and affordability. Among ASEAN member-states, the Philippines ranks last on internet speeds running at an average of 3.6 Mbps, in contrast to the average internet speed of Indonesia at 4.1 Mbps, Malaysia at 5.5 Mbps and Singapore at 61.0 Mbps.

This bill recognizes the importance of high speed internet connection in productivity and connectivity. Thus, it mandates internet service providers (ISPs) to deliver a minimum internet connection speeds of 10 Mbps for mobile broadband internet access and 20 Mbps for fixed and fixed wireless broadband internet access to their subscribers. ISPs shall ensure that they improve their system and work towards providing an average internet connection speed above global average.

Setting minimum internet connection speed standards not only ensures that consumers get the best quality of the service they pay for, but also makes the country at par with global internet standards.

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



VIRGILIO S. LACSON

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6248**

Introduced by Manila Teachers Representative
VIRGILIO S. LACSON

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A RELIABLE INTERNET SPEED CONNECTION IN THE
PHILIPPINES, INSTITUTIONALIZING MINIMUM SPEED REQUIREMENTS FOR
COMPLIANCE OF ALL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Reliable Internet Speed Connection Act of 2017”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of information communication in national development and in achieving inclusive growth. The State therefore shall implement measures to provide reliable minimum standards suitable to the needs and demands of the Filipino consumers and protect such interests to ensure quality internet connection service for all internet subscribers.

SEC. 3. *Standards on Broadband/Internet Service.* – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, all ISPs shall provide a minimum internet speed of 10 megabits per second (mbps) for mobile broadband internet access and 20 mbps for fixed and fixed wireless broadband and shall work towards providing an average internet connection speed above global average.

In order to meet the prescribed minimum standards, ISPs shall modify, improve, alter or change existing systems and infrastructures to cater higher capacity bandwidths.

SEC. 4. *Regulation.* – The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall establish requirements as deemed appropriate to ensure that ISPs meet the minimum standards in internet connection speed, which

shall include standards regarding connection, reception, pricing and billing practices to promote consumer rights protection.

SEC. 5. *Penalties.* – Any ISP who shall not meet the minimum standards mentioned under Section 3 of this Act, shall, upon conviction, be subject to the penalty of a fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) but not to exceed Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00)

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The NTC and the DICT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or deemed invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are 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 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,