Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5096

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
E-Filed
RECEIVED
DATE September 22, 2022
TIME 5:00 pm
BY Reli
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
MANDATING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES TO DISCLOSE SERVICE COVERAGE DATA TO THE PUBLIC

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in a digital era in the country wherein almost everyone can access a vast pool of information and reach people from across the world through their handheld devices. As such, telecommunications has become a very essential service for education, entrepreneurship, communication, work, and almost all transactions in our day-to-day lives. Despite this, network coverage remains to be a problem in the country, particularly for geographically isolated areas. In some cases, the reliability of services is also a concern.

Considering the importance of telecommunications in the day-to-day life of the people, it is incumbent upon the State to adopt measures towards ensuring extensive network coverage across the country. In this light, this measure is proposed to create a unified indexing system using the disclosed service coverage data from public telecommunications entities and internet service providers. Such a consolidated database would provide useful information which would allow future policies to more effectively address connectivity issues in the country. It would also aid the public in choosing a service provider that is suited for their needs and can provide reliable service in their areas.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5096

Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
MANDATING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES
TO DISCLOSE SERVICE COVERAGE DATA TO THE PUBLIC

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 "Telecommunications Coverage Data Disclosure Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. Towards these ends, the use of technology and increased connectivity for all citizens shall be encouraged.

SEC. 3. Mandatory Disclosure of Coverage Data. – All public telecommunications entities, including internet service providers, operating in the Philippines shall be required to disclose and publish, on an annual basis, their coverage data as provided under Section 4 of this Act. Without prejudice . to Section 5 of this Act, the coverage data of each public telecommunications entity shall be publicly available and posted on their websites.

SEC. 4. Data Subject of Mandatory Disclosure. –

a. A publicly accessible map online that depicts the availability and scope of mobile and fixed broadband internet access service and/or mobile telecommunications services within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines; and
b. A specification of the network or internet type (GSM, 3G, 4G, LTE, etc.) used in the geographical region.

SEC. 5. Indexing System. – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall create a unified indexing system of data released by public telecommunications entities under a singular platform. The platform shall include, but not be limited, to:

a. A display of the geographical coverage of internet and telecommunications services in the Philippines;
b. Crowdsourcing facilities that allow third-party users to submit information on coverage of telecommunications and internet services; and
c. Other information that will provide the public with knowledge of telecommunications and internet coverage in the Philippines.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DICT, in consultation with relevant agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within 30 days from its effectivity.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts of this Act, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,