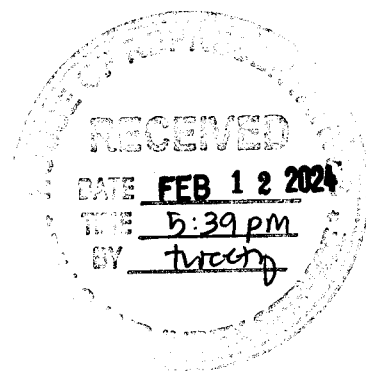




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9916



Introduced by Representative Lianda B. Bolilia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 2020 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Census of Population and Housing indicates that more than 50 million Filipinos have access to the internet¹. Data shows that the National Capital Region (NCR) had the highest proportion of households with internet access while three other regions had higher access rates, namely: Region IV (CALABARZON) at 70.2%, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) at 62.8%, and Region III (Central Luzon) at 62.3%. The census also indicated that the most common type of internet connection was made through mobile broadband networks, followed by wired broadband networks, wireless networks, and finally, satellite broadband. The popularity of the use of mobile broadband internet among consumers may be attributed to cost as fixed connections cost an average of \$ 38 or ₱ 2143 per month² while one can buy 1 month of mobile connectivity for a fraction of the price with prepaid promos costing as low as \$2 or ₱ 100 for a week of connectivity. More recent data indicates that Filipinos with access to the internet have grown to 73 million and may grow to as much as 93 million by 2028³.

¹ psa.gov.ph. (n.d.). More than 50 million have Access to the Internet (2020 Census of Population and Housing) | Philippine Statistics Authority | Republic of the Philippines. [online] Available at: <https://psa.gov.ph/content/more-50-million-have-access-internet-2020-census-population-and-housing>.

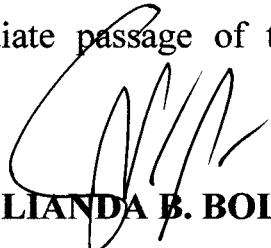
² www.pids.gov.ph. (n.d.). InfoBits on PH global ranking in terms of internet cost. [online] Available at: <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/resource/infographics-infobits/infobits-on-ph-global-ranking-in-terms-of-internet-cost> [Accessed 30 Jan. 2024].

³ Sanchez, M.J. (2021). Philippines: Number of internet users 2023 | Statista. [online] Statista. Available at: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/221179/internet-users-philippines/>.

Filipinos are also one of the populations that spend the most time using the internet – spending 9.14 hours accessing the internet in 2022⁴. As such, it can be said that most internet users have experienced the increase in internet connection speed in the past years which came from a lumbering 7.91 Mbps⁵ fixed connection speed in 2016 to 92.92 Mbps fixed connection speed which was recorded in December 2023⁶. A speed of 28 Mbps for mobile connections were also recorded in 2023 and is worth mentioning since most Filipinos access the internet through mobile.

This representation notes that progress was made in improving internet services and recognizes the work of service providers in ensuring this improvement. However, additional efforts must be made to ensure that every Filipino gets more value for money through better services, and to prevent the regression of the quality of internet service in the Philippines. As such, I file this bill seeking the enforcement of standards on internet speeds to ensure consistent and high quality internet services for all internet users in the Philippines. The Department of Information and Telecommunications Technology (DICT) shall be primarily responsible for the promulgation of the *Implementing Rules and Regulations* of this proposed Act, while the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) will assume regulatory responsibilities and functions. A penalty provision is present for internet service providers that will not meet the minimum standards set forth in the provisions of this legislation.

In consideration of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



LIANDA B. BOLILIA

⁴ Statista. (n.d.). Philippines: daily time spent using online media by activity (Q3) 2020. [online] Available at: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/803812/daily-time-spent-using-online-media-by-activity-philippines/>.

⁵ Dela Cruz, R.C. (2024). PH internet speed more than doubled since 2016: US firm. [online] Philippine News Agency. Available at: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1113475#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20country's%20average%20download%20speed,Ookla%20said%20in%20a%20statement>. [Accessed 30 Jan. 2024].

⁶ Speedtest Global Index. (n.d.). Speedtest Global Index – Monthly comparisons of internet speeds from around the world. [online] Available at: <https://www.speedtest.net/global-index#fixed>.



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HOUSE BILL NO. **9916**

Introduced by Representative Lianda B. Bolilia

AN ACT
REQUIRING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DELIVER A
MINIMUM STANDARD FOR INTERNET CONNECTIONS SPEED

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Bilis Konek Act*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation building and as such, it shall implement measures to provide communication standards suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation. The State gives priority to the protection of the interests of consumers and the establishment of standards of conduct for business and industry for advancements in the field of telecommunications and connectivity.

1 In recognition of the significant role of the internet in this information
2 age, the State ensures that internet users and subscribers be accorded the best
3 quality of internet connection service.

4 SEC. 3. **Definition of Terms** – The following terms used in this Act
5 shall be defined as follows:

6 (a) Bandwidth – measurement of data rate of available or consumed data
7 communication resources expressed in bits per second or multiples of
8 it;

9 (b) Broadband - a transmission medium which enables high-speed
10 Internet access transmitted through various technologies such as but
11 not limited to the Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), Cable Modem, Fiber
12 Optics, Wireless, Satellite, Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave
13 Access (WiMax), and White Space;

14 (c) Internet Service Provider or ISP - a commercial entity with a
15 nationwide franchise that enables users to access Internet content and
16 services. It may also refer to a public telecommunications entity
17 offering a value-added service such as the internet; and

18 (d) Public Telecommunications Entity or PTE - any person, firm,
19 partnership or corporation, government or private, engaged in the
20 provision of telecommunications services to the public for a fee.

21 SEC. 4. **Standards on Broadband/Internet Services** – Within two (2)
22 years from the effectivity of this Act, all ISPs shall provide a minimum internet

download speed of 30 Megabits per second (Mbps) for mobile broadband/Internet access and 65 Mbps for fixed and fixed wireless broadband/internet access and work towards providing an average internet connection speed above global average.

In order to meet the prescribed minimum standards, ISPs or PTEs shall modify, improve, or change telecommunication lines and systems or expand their infrastructure to run on higher capacity bandwidths based on the number of subscribers demanding for their services.

SEC. 5. **Regulation** - The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) shall, by regulation, establish requirements as deemed appropriate to ensure that ISPs meet the minimum standards in internet connection speed, which shall include standards regarding connection, reception, just pricing, and billing practices to promote and protect the rights of consumers of internet services.

SEC. 6. **Penalties** – Any ISP who shall not meet the minimum standards specified under Section 4 hereof or the regulations promulgated thereunder, shall, upon conviction, be subject to the penalty of a fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) but not exceed Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00).

SEC. 7. **Implementing Rules and Regulations** - Within sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the NTC and the Department of Information and

Communications Technology (DICT) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. ***Separability Clause*** – If any provision or part hereof is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. ***Repealing Clause*** – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. ***Effectivity*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,