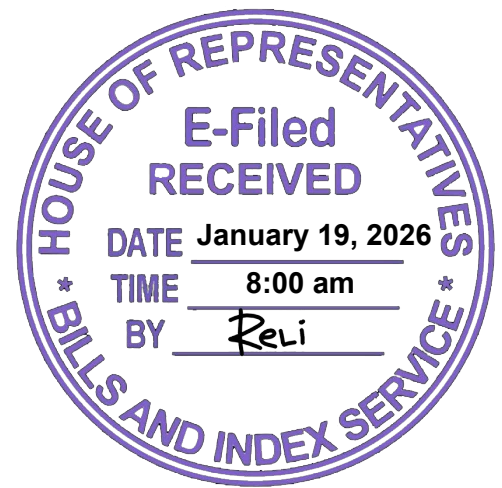




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7158

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic experience, individuals, businesses, the public sector, and other groups were forced to heavily rely on technology in their daily lives. New norms, such as distance learning in the education sector; online meeting via Zoom, Webex, Microsoft Teams, and others in the business sector; even the use of Netflix and other video streaming platforms for entertainment, have been widespread.

The "new normal" in the community has prompted the entry of telecommunications companies that have promised to provide more efficient services. However, their participation has not yet materialized into extensive coverage for all, especially those in remote areas.

This bill ultimately aims to increase connectivity in the country by providing readily available data with regard to the coverage of public telecommunications entities in the country. The proposed mandatory disclosure of coverage data will provide useful information to policymakers, private sector players, and other interested stakeholders, and understand the roadmap of connectivity, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of each telecommunications entity in their area.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a worldwide practice wherein telecommunications companies are mandated to release their coverage maps to the public so that the public will be aided in making their decision on what provider to choose. The disclosure of coverage data will also help decision-makers focus resources for underserved and unserved areas.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7158

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

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:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Telecommunications*
2 *Coverage Data Disclosure Act.*"
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to promote a just
5 and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity of the nation and free the
6 people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote
7 full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.
8 Towards these ends, the use of technology and increased connectivity for all citizens
9 shall be encouraged.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Mandatory Disclosure of Coverage Data.** – All public
12 telecommunications entities, including internet service providers, operating in the
13 Philippines shall be required to disclose and publish on their respective websites their
14 coverage data as provided under Section 4 of this Act, without prejudice to the
15 provisions of Section 5 of this Act Provided, That any change in the coverage data
16 shall be made publicly available and posted on their websites within two (2) weeks
17 from the date of such change; Provided, further, That in all cases, the coverage data
18 shall be updated annually.
19

20 **SEC. 4. Data Subject of Mandatory Disclosure.** –
21

- 22 a. A publicly accessible map online that depicts the availability and scope of
23 mobile and fixed broadband internet access service and/or mobile
24 telecommunications services within the territorial jurisdiction of the
25 Philippines; and
26 b. A specification of the network or internet type (GSM, 3G, 4G, LTE, 5G, etc.)
27 used in the geographical region.

1
2 **SEC. 5. Indexing System.** - The Department of Information and
3 Communications Technology (DICT) shall create a unified indexing system of data
4 released by public telecommunications entities under a singular platform. The platform
5 shall include, but not be limited, to:

- 6
7 a. A display of the geographical coverage of internet and telecommunications
8 services in the Philippines;
9 b. Crowdsourcing facilities that allow third party users to submit information on
10 coverage of telecommunications and internet services; and
11 c. Other information that will provide the public with knowledge of the
12 telecommunications and internet coverage in the Philippines.
13

14 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DICT, in consultation with
15 relevant agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate and issue the
16 implementing rules and regulations of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.
17

18 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
19 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
20 remain in force and effect.
21

22 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
23 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
24 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

25 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
27

28 *Approved,*