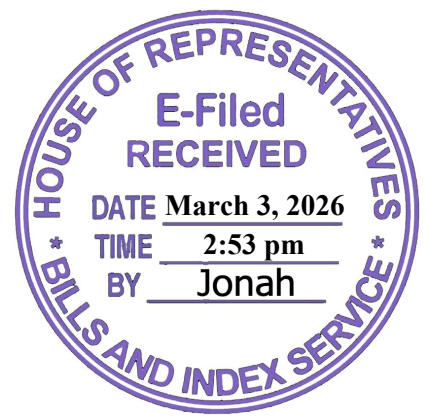


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 8252



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 24, of the Constitution, provides that “The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building”. As such, the State ensures that internet users and subscribers are accorded the best quality and reliability of internet connection service provided by the accredited internet service providers in the country.

The State also gives priority to the protection of interests of consumers and the establishment of standards of conduct for business and industry for advancements in the field of telecommunications and connectivity. The Philippines ranks 107th among 140 surveyed countries in terms of mobile internet speed with an average of 15.46Mbps, in contrast to the average internet speed of Taiwan at 43.73 Mbps, Singapore at 51.11 Mbps and South Korea at 90.06 Mbps. In terms of Fixed Broadband internet, the Philippines ranked 102nd among 177 countries compared to Singapore which has the fastest line internet with a speed of 195.88 Mbps, followed by Hong Kong at 173.54 Mbps, and South Korea at 144.99 Mbps.

In recognition of the significant role of the internet in this information age, the State ensures that internet users and subscribers are accorded the best quality of internet connection service. Thus, it mandates internet service providers (ISPs) to provide internet speeds of 60.31 Mbps per second for mobile broadband internet access and 128.48 Mbps for fixed 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.

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


MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON

Manila Teachers Party-list

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

)
)

First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. **8252**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

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

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 to the needs and demands of the Filipino consumers and protect such interest to ensure quality internet connection service for all internet subscribers.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purpose of this Act, the term:

- a. *Bandwidth* refers to the data transfer rate or the amount of data that can be carried from one point to another in a given time period, and is usually expressed in bits per second (bps) or multiples of it;
- b. *Broadband* refers to a transmission medium which enables high-speed Internet access transmitted through various technologies such as the Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), Cable Modem, Fiber Optics, Wireless, Satellite, Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMax), and White Space; and
- c. *Internet Service Providers or ISPs* refer to commercial entities with a nationwide franchise that enable users to access Internet content

and services. It may also refer to a public telecommunications entity offering a value-added service such as the internet.

Sec. 4. *Standards on Broadband/Internet Service.* - Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, all internet service providers (ISPs) shall provide internet speeds of 60.31 Mbps per second for mobile broadband internet access and 128.48 Mbps for fixed broadband, and shall work towards proving an average internet connection speed above global average.

ISPs shall modify, expand and/or upgrade existing systems and infrastructures to cater higher capacity bandwidths.

Sec. 5. *Penalties.* - Any ISP who shall not meet the minimum standards mentioned under Section 3 of this Act, shall be subject to fines and penalties of Three Hundred Thousand pesos (Php 300,000.00) but not exceeding Five Million pesos (Php 5,000,000.00); and the NTC is hereby authorized and empowered to impose such fine, after due notice and hearing. The fines or penalties imposed shall be paid to the government of the Republic of the Philippines through the NTC. Failure to pay the fines or penalties in any case within the time specified in the order or decision of the NTC shall be deemed good and sufficient reason for the suspension of the certificate of said public telecommunications entity until payment thereof shall have been made.

Sec.6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - 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 of internet connection speeds, which shall include standards regarding connection, reception, pricing and billing practices to promote consumer rights protection.

The NCT and 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 or portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not thereby affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, and/or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,