

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



'22 JUL 14 AIO 50

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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S. B. NO. 575

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced individuals, businesses, the public sector, and other groups to rely heavily on technology in their daily activities. Distance learning, for instance, has become the norm in the educational sector. Meetings have been scheduled and done through the use of online platforms, such as Zoom, Webex, and Microsoft Teams, among others. Most people have also resorted to the use of Netflix and other video streaming platforms as a means of entertainment.

The need for connectivity has catalyzed telecommunications companies to roll out new products and services, including promises of greater and better services. However, their participation has not yet materialized into extensive coverage for all, especially those in far-flung areas.

This bill ultimately seeks to increase connectivity in the country by providing readily-available data with regard 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 aims 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 decisionmakers to use limited resources to prioritize underserved and unserved areas.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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'22 JUL 14 A10 :50

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**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  
2 “*Telecommunications Coverage Data Disclosure Act.*”  
3

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

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

1 jurisdiction of the Philippines; and  
2

- 3 b. A specification of the network or internet type (GSM, 3G, 4G, LTE,  
4 5G, etc.) used in the geographical region.  
5

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

- 10  
11 a. A display of the geographical coverage of internet and  
12 telecommunications services in the Philippines;  
13  
14 b. Crowdsourcing facilities that allow third party users to submit  
15 information on coverage of telecommunications and internet  
16 services; and  
17  
18 c. Other information that will provide the public with knowledge of  
19 the telecommunications and internet coverage in the Philippines.  
20

21 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DICT, in  
22 consultation with relevant agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate  
23 and issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within thirty (30)  
24 days from its effectivity.  
25

26 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and  
27 regulations or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
28 deemed repealed or modified accordingly.  
29

30 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall  
31 be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate  
32 other parts of this Act, which shall remain in full force and effect.  
33

34 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
35 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
36 circulation.  
37

38 **Approved,**