

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 977



Introduced by Representative MICHAEL L. ROMERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This **SOS Alerts** aims to make emergency information more reachable and manageable during a natural or human-made incident or crisis.

Depending on the nature of this crisis and your location, they will need on the spot updates from local or national groups.

These updates could include emergency phone numbers and websites, maps, translations, donation opportunities, and other relevant matters.

Towards this end, the State shall implement measures to achieve these noble objectives.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

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AN ACT

MANDATING ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (**SERVICE PROVIDER**) TO CREATE A **SOS ALERT SCHEME**, TO FOSTER PROTECTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY – it is hereby a declared policy of the state to:

- a. Promote the interests of the general public;
- b. Foster the general welfare and create innovative mechanisms for the general public;
- c. Defend against all forms of deception, unethical practices and unfair actions;
- d. Facilitate suitable implementation for the protection of the general public; and
- e. Hasten the imposition of all existing policies and guidelines that shall protect the general public.

SECTION 2. CREATING A SOS ALERT SCHEME:

- a. All telecommunications company (service provider) shall create and establish a systematic **SOS ALERT SCHEME**;
- b. This **SOS alert scheme** shall apply to telecommunications company (service provider);
- c. This **SOS alert scheme** shall apply regardless of the nature of business or services the telecommunications company (service provider) is involved with;
- d. Creation of this **SOS alert scheme** shall be implemented immediately;
- e. This SOS alert scheme shall be a **quick response alert system** that can text or report incidents; then the telecommunications company (service provider) can send sms to all people within a radius of 5 kilometers; and
- f. This SOS alert scheme shall be an automatic SOS message from PNP to Fire Department:

Provided that; there is an accident within the vicinity of a 5 kilometer radius, or kidnapping or any crime.

SECTION 3. PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS:

For every violation of this act; or for every failure to comply with;

The Telecommunications company (Service provider) shall pay a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (**₱100,000.00**) for the first offense; a fine of not less than Three hundred thousand pesos (**₱300,000.00**) for the second offense.

In case of subsequent offenses;

The penalty shall be a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (**₱500,000.00**), and revocation of the franchise to operate.

SECTION 4. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS – The departments and agencies charged, to be led by the Department of Information and Communications Technology **(DICT)** with carrying out the provisions of this Act, shall within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,