



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9655

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Slow and unreliable internet connectivity is one of the sore realities that Filipinos are faced with daily. To make matters worse, with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the reliance on internet services of the working class increased drastically along with the students who are still not allowed to take part in face-to-face classes. Even courts of justice rely on internet services in order to conduct its hearings as well as other government agencies. Needless to say, internet services play a vital role in the day-to-day lives of most people.

The Philippines ranks at the lower part of the world index in terms of average broadband and mobile speeds. For broadband speed, the Philippines ranks 80th out of one hundred seventy-six (176) countries while 84th out of the one hundred thirty-four (134) countries for mobile speed¹. Based on the data as provided, it is quite clear that we are way behind in terms of broadband and mobile internet speed. Considering the vast usage of internet by the Filipinos not only for leisure purposes but also for professional and educational settings, measures have to be taken in order to improve internet services in the Philippines.

This Bill aims to mandate internet service providers (ISPs) to improve the internet services in the country by requiring a provide internet download speed not lower than ten (10) Mbps for all broadband internet access. Through the passage of this Bill, Filipinos shall be provided with a faster and more stable

¹ Speedtest Global Index

internet connection and giving the consumers value for their money paid for internet access.

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

Eric C. Olivarez
ERIC OLIVAREZ



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1
2 **“AN ACT MANDATING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
3 **COMMISSION TO REQUIRE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS**
4 **TO DELIVER A MINIMUM STANDARD OF 10 MEGABYTES**
5 **PER SECOND (10MBPS) FOR INTERNET**
6 **CONNECTION SPEED”**
7

8 *Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the*
9 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*

10 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This act shall be known as the *“Improved Internet*
11 *Services Act of 2021”*.

12 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the vital role of
13 communication and information in nation-building as well as the authority of the State
14 to regulate and promote the adaptation of technology for the national benefit. As such,
15 the State shall endeavor to accelerate the provision of good internet connectivity in
16 the entire country by creating measures that will deliver inexpensive, fast, and reliable
17 internet services.

18 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** –

19 a) *Internet Service Providers (ISPs)* refers to the entities that provide
20 internet connections and services to individuals and organizations.

21 b) *Bandwidth* refers to the maximum amount of data transmitted over an
22 internet connection in a given amount of time.

- 1 c) *Broadband* refers to the transmission of wide bandwidth data over a
2 high-speed internet connection.
- 3 d) *Download speed* refers to the speed at which an internet connection is
4 able to retrieve data from the internet.
- 5 e) *Megabits per second (Mbps)* refers to the unit of measurement for
6 bandwidth and throughput on a network

7 **SECTION 4. *The National Telecommunications Commission*** – The National
8 Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is hereby mandated to create measures that
9 will increase the speed of internet services in the country. In order to achieve this, the
10 NTC shall compel all internet service providers to provide internet download speed not
11 lower than 10 Mbps for all broadband internet access.

12 The NTC shall formulate regulations that shall set forth the requirements to
13 ensure that ISPs meet the standards required in internet connection speed. The NTC
14 shall likewise provide parameters that will protect the rights of consumers of internet
15 services by including conditions necessary for connection, pricing, billing and the like.

16 **SECTION 5. *Role of Internet Service Providers and Public***
17 ***Telecommunications Entities.*** – In order to achieve the mandate of this Act, internet
18 service providers (ISPs) and Public Telecommunications Entities (PTEs) shall be
19 responsible in creating measures that will satisfy at least the minimum requirements
20 set forth by the NTC. The ISPs and the PTEs, if necessary, shall modify or change
21 telecommunication lines, or expand their infrastructure in order to be able to
22 accommodate higher bandwidths in order to improve internet services in the country.

23 **SECTION 6. *Review by the NTC.*** – In order to ensure continued compliance
24 with the provisions of this Act, the NTC is hereby mandated to conduct an annual
25 review of the implementation of this Act. The NTC shall adjust the minimum standard
26 accordingly should they find the necessity to do so based on the conduct of the review.

27 **SECTION 7. *Penalty.*** – ISPs who fail to meet the minimum download speed
28 requirement set forth in this Act shall be subject to a fine of not exceeding FIVE
29 MILLION PESOS (Php5,000,000.00).

30 **SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days
31 from the promulgation of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations for the
32 proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the NTC in coordination
33 with all the stakeholders and covered establishments and institutions.

34 **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
35 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain
36 valid and subsisting.

1 **SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All acts, executive orders, memorandum
2 circulars/guidelines and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with
3 this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation

6 **APPROVED.**