

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



'14 NOV 18 P1:46

SENATE
S. NO. **2458**

RECEIVED BY: *Ju*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
CREATING A TASK FORCE ON INFORMATION SERVICES TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT TO FOSTER THE FREE MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND
BENEFICIAL USE OF ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 9, mandates:

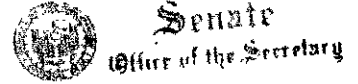
The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

IT-related industries and BPO/contact centers are two of the highly prioritized sectors in the Investment Priority Plan. There is a need to develop responsive policies that foster the free market development and beneficial use of advanced communications networks and information technologies. This can be accomplished through the creation of a task force on information services technology development. Thus, urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
78

¹ This bill is patterned after Senate Bill No. A02573 of the New York State Assembly.

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

1 AN ACT

2 CREATING A TASK FORCE ON INFORMATION SERVICES TECHNOLOGY
3 DEVELOPMENT TO FOSTER THE FREE MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND
4 BENEFICIAL USE OF ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND
5 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

6
7 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the
8 State to develop policies that will benefit Filipinos by fostering the free market
9 development and beneficial use of advanced communication networks and information
10 technologies.

11 SECTION 2. *Creation of the Task Force on Information Services Technology*
12 *Development.* - The Task Force on Information Services Technology Development is
13 hereby created with the following objectives:

- 14 1. Promote the development of a framework that will ensure that the Philippines
15 has an aggressive information technology (IT) economic development process that
16 focuses on creating, retaining, and recruiting IT companies under circumstances
17 which foster technological and knowledge based innovations, entrepreneurship,
18 and investment in a trained and skilled workforce; to increase national,
19 international, and global awareness of the Philippines as an environment ideally
20 suited for the successful advancement of the information technology business
21 sector;

- 1 2. Promote the development of strategies to ensure that K-12 educational
2 institutions develop policies and programs that promote technological innovation
3 and improve education in order to enhance the country's innovative capacity and
4 create a more productive citizenry that can navigate, adapt, and prosper in the
5 information economy;
- 6 3. Promote the development of strategies to assist educational institutions in
7 establishing policies and programs that will produce a highly skilled IT
8 workforce, and encourage public/private partnerships in the development of IT
9 curriculum, research, funding, and training;
- 10 4. Promote the development of policy recommendations to ensure that the public
11 and private sectors will focus on bridging the gap between the information-rich
12 and the information-poor in order to foster equal access to IT for all Filipinos;
- 13 5. Promote the development of strategies to ensure that government institutions
14 use technology to increase the quality and cost-effectiveness of their services,
15 while also fostering broader use of information technologies among and
16 between residents and businesses. Also, to promote the development of policies
17 which ensure that government serves as a catalyst for advancing the digital
18 economy by refocusing government procurement power, and provide a critical
19 mass of digital services;
- 20 6. Evaluate laws, rules, and procedures to ensure that they facilitate, or at least do
21 not hinder, the growth of electronic commerce (eCommerce);
- 22 7. Evaluate whether laws, rules, and procedures should be created, amended or
23 repealed to reflect the impact of eCommerce on our state and to foster the growth
24 of eCommerce while protecting consumer rights; and
- 25 8. Promote the development of policies to ensure that the Philippines has
26 sufficient communications infrastructure and high bandwidth capacity to support

1 our growing information economy; to evaluate the sufficiency of IT research and
2 development centers to ensure that the Philippines has an environment that
3 continuously develops new technologies and applications.

4 SECTION 3. *Composition.* - The Task Force shall consist of ten members. It shall
5 include the following public officers and private citizens:

- 6 1. Department of Science and Technology Secretary as the lead person;
- 7 2. Secretary of Education;
- 8 3. Commissioner on Higher Education;
- 9 4. National and Economic Development Authority Director General;
- 10 5. Representative from a wireless telecommunications company;
- 11 6. Representative from an Internet service provider with more than one million
12 customers;
- 13 7. Representative from the entertainment industry;
- 14 8. Representative from a computer or telecommunications manufacturing
15 company;
- 16 9. Representative from a cable television provider; and
- 17 10. Representative from the tourism industry.

18 SECTION 4. *Appropriation.* - The initial funding for this Task Force is five
19 million pesos (P5,000,000.00) which shall be charged against the current appropriations
20 of the lead agency, which is the Department of Science and Technology. Thereafter, such
21 sums which shall be necessary for the continued implementation of this Task Force shall
22 be charged to the General Fund and included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

23 SECTION 5. *Report.* - The Task Force shall report its findings, conclusions, and
24 recommendations to Congress one year after it is created and convened. The Task Force
25 may develop and publish other documents throughout the year as it deems necessary
26 and/or appropriate.

1 SECTION 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
2 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
3 remain valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
5 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to
6 or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
7 accordingly.

8 SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
9 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/dpm