

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
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SENATE

P.S. No. 188

RECEIVED BY:

INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PER MINUTE CHARGE BY MOBILE PHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 24 provides that the State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation building;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 7925, also known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines, Section 4, paragraph (f), states that a healthy competitive environment shall be fostered, one in which telecommunications carriers are free to make business decisions and to interact with one another in providing telecommunications services, with the end in view of encouraging their financial viability while maintaining affordable rates;

WHEREAS, the mobile phone industry is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing industries in our country. Industry estimates show more than thirty million (30,000,000) subscribers as of end 2004, and approximates that half of the population will be mobile phone subscribers by the end of 2005;

WHEREAS, data from the International Data Corp. (IDC) global survey of IT spending reveals that of the US\$2.5377 billion estimated value of telecommunications market spending in the Philippines in 2003, US\$1.672 billion (66 percent) was accounted for by the mobile phone segment;

WHEREAS, the use of mobile telephones for communications has become a major expense item in the Filipino family, especially with the increasing number of relatives working overseas;

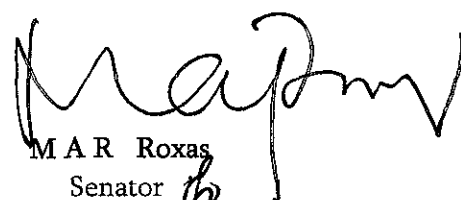
WHEREAS, calls by mobile phone service subscribers are charged at the minimum by the minute even if the duration of these calls are only a fraction of a minute;

WHEREAS, free market competition in the telecommunications industry has widened consumer options with the entry of unlimited call and text services at a meager cost to the consumer;

WHEREAS, consumers should be given value for money and gain their every peso's worth by paying only for the actual cost of calls completed up to the last second, or exclusive of any interval between the actual duration of the call and minimum set limits by service providers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate direct the Committees on Public Services to conduct and investigation, in aid of legislation, on the per minute charge by mobile phone service providers.

Adopted,


MAR Roxas
Senator
mrx