




Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

16 JUL 20 P2:49

SENATE
S.B. No. 646

RECORDED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS THROUGH THE USE OF THE INTERNET AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

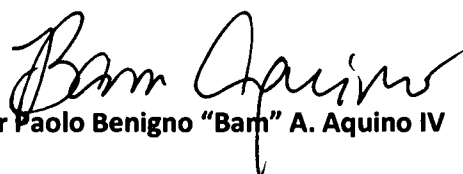
The Philippines is one of the most active nations on Facebook with 30 million Filipinos registered to the popular social media website. On the Internet, Filipinos are able to share personal stories, talents, products, appeals for donations, and grievances. And in the May 2016 elections, ideas on politics, governance and legislation flooded our social media feeds.

The Internet has proven time and again, through elections, natural disasters, public scandals, and the like, that it has the power to unite public efforts. The Internet has a power that we harness during times of need and that we ought to maximize for the betterment of our country.

This bill seeks the creation of an online platform for ordinary citizens to create petitions for both Houses of Congress to review, amend, repeal or create a law. This platform shall be launched and maintained by the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office and it shall serve as a direct communication channel between the legislative branch of government and the general public. Petitions launched on the website should need to have been electronically signed by at least 300,000 before the proposed measure will be forwarded to the relevant committees in both Congress and the Senate.

In our nation, we strive to achieve full participation in the democratic process. With the advent of widespread Internet access, it has never been easier to improve and democratize our legislative process than it is now, utilizing a fast, efficient, and transparent technology to hear the voice of ordinary citizens.

In view of the foregoing, the passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall also be known as the "*Crowdsourcing Act*".

2 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy-** The sovereignty of the State resides in its people and
3 all government authority emanates from them. This principle is hereby extended to the
4 right of citizens to participate in the legislative process through the use of new, effective,
5 and responsive communication mechanisms to promote and protect participation in all
6 levels of social, political, and economic decisions.

7 Crowdsourcing is a concept that recognizes and allows an individual and collective
8 power of the people, with the use of the Internet or other ICT systems, to contribute to the
9 formulation, improvement, or creation of laws that benefit the State.

10 **SEC. 3. Crowdsourcing in the Legislative Process.** – The Presidential Legislative
11 Liaison Office (PLLO) shall create a platform through the Internet where people can start a
12 campaign or a petition to review, amend, repeal, or create a law. This platform shall be
13 available in their website to serve as the avenue for individuals or groups to propose
14 legislations to the members of Congress. Once a proposed measure reaches three hundred
15 thousand (300,000) verified signatures, the PLLO shall forward the said proposed measure
16 to the Chairperson of the Committees on both Houses of Congress for further action.

17 All comments sent through the portal shall form part of the official and public
18 records of Congress and shall be considered in the final output of the measure.

19 **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the
20 effectivity of this Act, the PLLO, in coordination with the House of Representatives and
21 Senate if the Philippines' secretariat, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
22 for the effective implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
2 or other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
3 modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
5 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall
6 remain in force and effect.

7 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
8 the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

9 *Approved,*