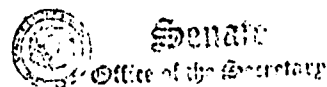


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Second Regular Session



21 JAN 12 P1:50

SENATE

S. B. NO. 1981

RECD. 12/21/11

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES
TO DISCLOSE SERVICE COVERAGE DATA TO THE PUBLIC**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced individuals, businesses, the public sector, and other groups to rely heavily on technology in their daily activities. Distance learning, for instance, has become the norm in the educational sector. Meetings have been scheduled and done through the use of online platforms, such as Zoom, Webex, Microsoft Teams, among others. Most people have also resorted to the use of Netflix and other video streaming platforms as a means of entertainment.

The need for connectivity has prompted the entry of telecommunications companies that have promised to provide more efficient services. However, their participation has not yet materialized into extensive coverage for all, especially those in far-flung areas.

This bill ultimately seeks to increase connectivity in the country by providing readily-available data with regard the coverage of public telecommunications entities in the country. The proposed mandatory disclosure of coverage data will provide useful information to policymakers, private sector players, and other interested stakeholders, and understand the roadmap of connectivity, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of each telecommunications entity in their area.

This bill aims to institutionalize a worldwide practice wherein telecommunications companies are mandated to release their coverage maps to the public so that the public will be aided in making their decision on what provider to choose. The disclosure of coverage data will also help decisionmakers focus resources for underserved and unserved areas.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



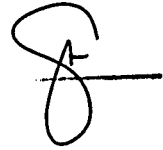
SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

21 JAN 12 P1:51

SENATE

S. B. NO. 1981

RECORDED



Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES TO DISCLOSE SERVICE COVERAGE DATA TO THE PUBLIC

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the
2 “Telecommunications Coverage Data Disclosure Act.”

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to promote a just
5 and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity of the nation and free
6 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,
7 promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of
8 life for all. Towards these ends, the use of technology and increased
9 connectivity for all citizens shall be encouraged.

10
11 **SEC. 3. Mandatory Disclosure of Coverage Data.** – All public
12 telecommunications entities, including internet service providers, operating in
13 the Philippines shall be required to disclose and publish, on an annual basis,
14 their coverage data as provided under Section 4 of this Act. Without prejudice
15 to Section 5 of this Act, the coverage data of each public telecommunications
16 entities shall be publicly available and posted on their websites.

17
18 **SEC. 4. Data Subject of Mandatory Disclosure.** –
19
20 a. A publicly accessible map online that depicts the availability and scope of
21 mobile and fixed broadband internet access service and/or mobile
22 telecommunications services within the territorial jurisdiction of the
23 Philippines; and
24

- 1 b. A specification of the network or internet type (GSM, 3G, 4G, LTE, etc.)
2 used in the geographical region.
3

4 **SEC. 5. Indexing System.** – The Department of Information and
5 Communications Technology (DICT) shall create a unified indexing system of
6 data released by public telecommunications entities under a singular platform.
7 The platform shall include, but not be limited, to:
8

9 a. A display of the geographical coverage of internet and
10 telecommunications services in the Philippines;
11

12 b. Crowdsourcing facilities that allow third party users to submit information
13 on coverage of telecommunications and internet services; and
14

15 c. Other information that will provide the public with knowledge of the
16 telecommunications and internet coverage in the Philippines.
17

18 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DICT, in consultation
19 with relevant agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate and issue the
20 implementing rules and regulations of this Act within 30 days from its effectivity.
21

22 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations
23 or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed
24 repealed or modified accordingly.
25

26 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be
27 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other
28 parts of this Act, which shall remain in full force and effect.
29

30 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
31 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
32 circulation, whichever comes earlier.
33

34 **Approved,**