

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1677



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The internet has revolutionized many aspects of our lives. Social media, for instance, have transformed the ways and means thru which we communicate with one another. The rise of mobile applications have changed shopping patterns, transportation practices, and even financial transactions such as banking and online trading. In 2012, the first attempt at a Crowdsourcing Law was launched in the Senate of the Philippines in recognition of the power of the internet to get the people involved in the process of legislation. Six years since, we have yet to institutionalize the legal framework that will empower Filipinos from all walks of life manifest their will through directly proposed bills.

This Representation believes that a Crowdsourcing Act shall enhance democracy in our country. Through verified social media accounts, Filipinos can make legislative proposals that reflect their most pressing needs and concerns. Lawmaking thus becomes more inclusive, participatory and transparent. The same is also more efficient and economical. As our population is composed of individuals who are experts in their own fields, they can bring forward certain issues that require a timely response. Through a Crowdsourcing Act, the State will be able to save valuable resources in identifying problems and solutions in numerous fields, especially the highly technical ones.

Internationally, Brazil has trailblazed participatory legislation through its Internet Bill of Rights which allowed the direct participation of its citizens in drafting the law. In Finland and Iceland, citizens were allowed to comment on traffic laws and provide suggestions through internet platforms. It is high time that we harness the

Filipinos' massive use of the internet and the spirit of *bayanihan* in advancing democracy.

In light of the foregoing premises, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

SECTION 7. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, which shall not be later than seven (7) days after the approval thereof.

Approved,