



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6757



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Introduced by **REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The sovereign Filipino People, the ultimate source of all government powers, have reposed to Congress the unique and awesome power to enact laws intended to protect, preserve, and promote their rights and interest as enshrined under the 1987 Constitution, such as the right to information.

The Congress in 1995 enacted Republic Act Number 7925 or the *Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines* for the promotion and governance of the development of telecommunications, and the delivery of public telecommunications services in the country. However, there is now a need to review the said law to fill in any gap in the law, such as where the previously-granted legislative franchise of an authorized public network operator or other provider of telecommunications services expires while Congress is deliberating on the application for renewal of such franchise.

Although there is a need to conduct public hearings for the said application, it can not be denied that the expiration of the said franchise during the interim is more detrimental to the interest of the country, as the delivery of telecommunications services is now vital to government services, business operations, and for the people to be informed of current developments. To drive the point home, the onset of the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic forced the government and businesses to halt its operations, with the people required to stay at home to prevent being infected of and perish due to COVID-19.

As everyone is constrained to resort to remote working, the continued and consistent delivery of crucial telecommunications services is indispensable for the country to survive the pandemic and other future contingencies. This bill proposes to address such situation to serve the welfare of the country and the Filipino People.

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

**REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR**  
3rd District, Pampanga



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**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO ISSUE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY TO OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES FOR THEIR CONTINUED OPERATIONS PENDING RENEWAL OF THEIR CONGRESSIONAL FRANCHISE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7925, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**Section 1.** Section 16, Article VI of Republic Act Number 7925, otherwise known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"ARTICLE VI"**  
**"FRANCHISE, RATES AND REVENUE DETERMINATION"**

**"Section 16. Franchise.** – No person shall commence or conduct the business of being a public telecommunications entity without first obtaining a franchise."

"The Commission, in granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), may impose such conditions as to duration and termination of the privilege, concession, or standard or technical aspects of the equipment, rates, or service, not contrary to the terms of the franchise. In no case, however, shall the CPCN be shorter than five (5) years, nor longer than the life of the franchise. A CPCN expiring at the same time as the franchise shall be deemed to have been renewed for the same term if the franchise itself is also renewed or extended."

**"IN THE EVENT THAT THE FRANCHISE EXPIRE PENDING ITS APPLICATION BY THE FRANCHISE HOLDER FOR RENEWAL FROM CONGRESS, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATIONS OF AND DELIVERY OF SERVICE BY THE SAID FRANCHISE HOLDER UNTIL**



AND UNLESS SUCH APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL BE APPROVED  
OR DISAPPROVED BY CONGRESS."

"xxx."

"xxx."

**Section 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, the Department of Information and Communications Technology shall, in coordination with the National Telecommunications Communications, promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

**Section 3. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**Section 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*