

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 185



Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The state recognizes that it is imperative to prioritize and provide the suitable tools and means to make way for the needed infrastructure to interconnect government agencies and consolidate numerous agency data centers that can provide services such as cloud computing, web hosting, and server colocation.

To support these, it is obligatory that the national government establish a **National Broadband Development Act**.

This House Bill seeks to create and establish a comprehensive Broadband control and management framework. To enable all concerned and affected personnel, organizations to carry out their unique role.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE **NATIONAL BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT ACT**, TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS, TO AUGMENT THE DEMANDS FOR INTERNET SPEED AND NETWORK CONNECTIVITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY – It is hereby a declared policy of the state to provide efficient ICT and Broadband services, prioritize the unserved and underserved areas.

SECTION 2. NATIONAL BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT ACT – The State shall hereby create a **National Broadband Development Act** to expand and establish ICT infrastructures, to foster the continuity of ICT-Broadband based services to aid and support our noble economic objectives:

(a) The vital role of an efficient Broadband infrastructure in our nation building;

(b) To ensure the provision of strategic, reliable, cost-efficient and citizen-centric election technology, infrastructure, systems and resources;

(c) To ensure universal access to quality, affordable, reliable and secure services;

(d) To promote the development and widespread use of emerging new ICT technologies;

(e) To ensure the availability and accessibility of services in all areas;

(f) To foster an Integrated and automated policy environment that will promote a broad market-led development of the ICT-enabled services;

(g) To promote and assist the development of local and national database-ICT content, applications and services which may include support for ICT-based start-up enterprises through strategic partnerships;

(h) To promote the use of modern ICT base mechanisms and technologies for the enhancement of key public services, such as education, public health and safety, revenue generation, and socio-civic purposes;

(i) To encourage the use modern ICT mechanisms and technologies for the development and promotion of the country's election procedures, and national identity;

- (j) To promote digital literacy, ICT base expertise, and knowledge building among citizens to enable them to participate and compete in an evolving ICT age;
- (k) To empower, through the use of ICT concepts, the disadvantaged segments of the population, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and indigenous and minority groups;
- (l) To ensure the rights of individuals to privacy and confidentiality of their personal information;
- (m) To ensure the security of critical ICT infrastructures including information assets of the government; and
- (n) To provide oversight, governance and regulating the ICT sector and ensure voters protection and welfare, data privacy and security.

SECTION 3. TRANSITORY PROVISION -- Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act, shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 5. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,