

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3238**



Introduced by Representative Florida P. Robes

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The evolution of information technology nowadays have played a major role for individuals or groups to air or express one's own sentiments, feelings, opinions, suggestions and let the whole world know of the same, so to speak. Foremost of these are social media platforms such as facebook and instagram where most of the people of the whole world browses at least an hour of their everyday lives.

Now, it is the humble submission of the undersigned that the participation of the people in law-making can be maximized by taking advantage of this information technology advances by making and creating legal and acceptable means of making them participate by sharing one's own comments, sentiments and/or opinions with the end in view of formulating laws for the betterment of our society in general which can be achieved by the proper use of online media.

With the creation and passage of this law, and with its regulation in accordance with already existing rules, there is no doubt that the use of social media can be a powerful tool in enacting future laws for the benefit of the Filipino people and even the whole world.

Thus, the approval and passage of this bill is being earnestly sought.


FLORIDA P. ROBES

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR CITIZENS PARTICIPATION
IN LEGISLATION AND RULE -MAKING THROUGH THE USE
OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS**

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”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*- The Philippines is a democratic and republican State. Sovereignty resides in its people and all government authority emanates from them. The State should harness the potential to consult its citizens from all over the world in all fields of social, economic, and political discourse, including legislation and rule-making. This principle is extended to the right of citizens to participate in the legislative process through the use of information and communication technology platforms.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*- As used in this Act:

- a. **Congressional Portal** refers to the homepage of the Philippine Congress as maintained by their respective secretariat for purposes of this Act;
- b. **Crowdsourcing** refers to the practice of engaging the individuals or a group for a common goal, often innovation, problem solving or efficiency in the delivery of services. Powered by new technologies, social media and the development of the worldwide web 2.0, the individuals or groups are able to contribute to the formulation, improvement, and creation of laws that are beneficial to the nation;
- c. **Information and Communications Technology** refers to the totality of electronic means to access, create, collect, store, process receive, transmit, present and disseminate information;

d. **Online** refers to a location accessed through a connection to a central computer network or mobile by citizens anywhere in the world as opposed to a physical location like Congress and the executive departments and agencies. This include electronic mails, websites, internet for social media sites, and other such similar media; and

e. **Web 2.0 or the Participative and Social Web** refers to the second generation of the world wide websites (www) that emphasize user-generated content, ease of use, participatory culture and inter-operability for end users.

SEC. 4. Crowdsourcing in Legislation Through the Senate and the House of Representatives. - This Act allows the citizens and the public at large to participate in the legislative process wherever they are through the internet or mobile platforms. The crowdsourcing process shall be as follows:

a. **On First Reading** – Upon the filing of a national measure, the secretariat of Congress shall post a copy of the measure and shall give the public fifteen (15) working days, except for bills certified as urgent by the President, to submit their comments upon referral of the measure on First Reading. The comments from the public shall be part of the inputs to committee deliberations.

The standing or special committee may incorporate the comments and issue a crowdsourcing feedback report online to inform the proponent of the action taken by the standing or special committee.

b. **With Committee Report** – Upon the submission of a committee report by the concerned standing or special committee to the Committee on Rules, the public is given three (3) working days to submit its comments on the measure, except for bills certified as urgent by the President, before the Committee on Rules includes the report in the Calendar of Business.

c. **With Third Reading Copy**- Once the measure is approved on Third Reading and before the Bicameral Conference Committee is convened, the public is given three (3) working days to submit its comments and the concerned committee shall review the same for consideration at the conference committee level. Only comments germane to the measure, as amended, shall be accepted and considered.

SEC. 5. Crowdsourcing in Rule-making Through the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office.- This Act allows all citizens and the public at-large to participate in the legislative process through the legislative liaison system via the internet or mobile platforms.

The homepage of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) shall serve as the portal for the department legislative liaison system for crowdsourcing purposes.

The PLLO website shall provide a platform through the internet where people can start a campaign or petition to review, amend and repeal a law or create a bill, the result of which

may be transmitted to any member of both Houses for appropriate action. The PLLO shall also provide for a crowdsourcing feedback report online to inform the proponent of the action taken thereto.

SEC. 6. Procedure of Registration. – A citizen who would like to start a campaign or petition to review, amend and repeal a law or create a bill, shall register online by providing his/her name, address, e-mail, mobile number and a government-issued ID, consistent with the provisions of the “Data Privacy Act of 2012.”

SEC. 7. Monitoring and Evaluation – There shall be a feedback mechanism that will guide the post-facto crowdsourcing exercise. This will enable legislators to understand public sentiments for improved grounding of their legislative duties and to ensure that concerns raised by the public are acted upon by appropriate entities. The concerned committees shall provide the result of feedback consultations to a central secretariat of the Management Information Service of both Houses of Congress and the Office of the President, that will analyze the data for emergent issues and concerns.

SEC. 8. Sunset Review.– Six years from its enactment, Congress shall review and recommend amendments to this Act to be attuned with development post web 2.0 era and determine if the same can be implemented in provinces and highly urbanized cities that have adopted open convergence.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.– Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the secretariat of both Houses of Congress and the PLLO shall, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause.– In case any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.– All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity.– This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,