

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3695



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is one of State policies that priority to education, science, and technology be paid attention to in order to accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development. Corollarily, another State policy recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation building.

These two are best achieved, to some degree or other, with private sector participation, whether or not, the government gives it more incentives than it expected. But just like other comforts given by grand malls to shoppers (e.g. fully air-conditioning system), malls can likewise provide free internet within the whole structure.

This bill seeks to enjoin grand or mega malls to provide "Free Internet Service" for its clients and customers as part of the emerging trends and developments in rapidly expanding urban milieu, urbanism and urbanization in cities, metropolitan areas, and the like.

It is not as if this is not happening yet. There are now a number of business establishments providing free internet access or service for customers such as Starbucks, Mc Do, Burger King, and the like. This free wi-fi access affords people to make important decisions where they are and therefore are no longer constrained by geographical barriers or limitations.

In short, consumers somehow now expect to be connected wherever they are. In fact, the use of wi-fi in malls could positively result in more shoppers going to malls everyday and therefore deserve to benefit from this service while shopping.

The immediate passage of this bill is therefore most earnestly sought.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Winnie Castelo".

WINNIE CASTELO

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AN ACT

REQUIRING GRAND MALLS IN THE METROPOLIS TO PROVIDE 'FREE INTERNET ACCESS OR SERVICE' TO SHOPPERS AND CUSTOMERS THROUGHOUT THE TIME OF THEIR BUSINESS HOURS AND PROVIDING GUIDELINES THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. It is a State policy that vital role of communication and information in nation building should be recognized. To this end, the role of the private sector is the State's stimulus for granting incentives.

SEC. 2. This Act shall be known as the "Free Internet Access or Service Act of 2016".

SEC. 3. It is hereby deemed part of the corporate social responsibility of grand malls or mega malls in metropolis to provide Free Internet Access or Service to their shoppers and customers throughout their business hours.

SEC. 4. To effectively carry out the provision of this Act, the Department of Trade and Industry shall serve as the implementing agency.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect after its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,