



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 684

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BY REPRESENTATIVES DEL MAR, ABAYON, TINIO AND CHIPECO

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AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 53, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO EXEMPT THE PUBLISHER, EDITOR OR REPORTER OF ANY PUBLICATION FROM REVEALING THE SOURCE OF PUBLISHED NEWS OR INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE", BY INCLUDING WITHIN ITS COVERAGE, JOURNALISTS FROM BROADCAST AND NEWS AGENCIES

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 53, as amended, is hereby  
2 further amended to read as follows:

3           "SECTION 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the  
4 civil and criminal laws, [the publisher, editor, columnist or duly  
5 accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of  
6 general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of  
7 any news-report or information appearing in said publication  
8 which was related in confidence to such publisher, editor or  
9 reporter unless the court or a House or committee of Congress]

10           A DULY ACCREDITED JOURNALIST OF ANY LEGITIMATE PRINT,  
11           BROADCAST, WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, STATION OR

1 NETWORK, INCLUDING THE PUBLISHER, STATION OWNER  
2 AND/OR MANAGER, BUREAU CHIEF, EDITOR, NEWS  
3 EDITOR, WRITER OR REPORTER, CORRESPONDENT,  
4 OPINION COLUMNIST OR COMMENTATOR, CARTOONIST,  
5 PHOTOGRAPHER, OR OTHER PRACTITIONER INVOLVED IN THE  
6 GATHERING, WRITING, EDITING OF, OR COMMENTING ON THE  
7 NEWS FOR MASS CIRCULATION OR BROADCAST CANNOT BE  
8 COMPELLED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF ANY NEWS ITEM,  
9 NEWS REPORT OR INFORMATION APPEARING OR BEING  
10 REPORTED, DISSEMINATED OR COMMENTED ON IN SAID MEDIA,  
11 WHICH WAS RELAYED IN CONFIDENCE TO SUCH JOURNALIST  
12 OR PRACTITIONER UNLESS THE COURT OR THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE OR ANY OF ITS  
14 COMMITTEES finds that such revelation is demanded by the  
15 security of the State.”

16 SEC. 2. Insert a new Section 2 after Section 1 of Republic Act  
17 No. 53, as amended, to read as follows:

18 “SEC. 2. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, A DULY  
19 ACCREDITED JOURNALIST OR PRACTITIONER OF ANY  
20 LEGITIMATE PRINT, BROADCAST, WIRE SERVICE  
21 ORGANIZATION, STATION OR NETWORK IS ONE WHO IS  
22 ACCREDITED WITH ANY REPUTABLE ASSOCIATION OF MEDIA  
23 PERSONS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE PHILIPPINE  
24 INFORMATION AGENCY – PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS  
25 OPERATIONS OFFICE (PIA – PCOO), THE NATIONAL PRESS  
26 CLUB (NPC), THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS OF  
27 THE PHILIPPINES (NUJP), AND THE KAPISANAN NG MGA  
28 BROADCASTER NG PILIPINAS (KBP), AND/OR ONE WHO IS A  
29 REGULAR EMPLOYEE OF A LEGITIMATE PRINT, BROADCAST,  
30 WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, STATION OR NETWORK:

1           **PROVIDED, THAT ANY JOURNALIST ENGAGED BY ANY**  
2           **LEGITIMATE MEDIA COMPANY SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE AN**  
3           **ACCREDITED JOURNALIST.”**

4           SEC. 3. Any law, decree, ordinance or rule or regulation inconsistent  
5 with or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

6           SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
7 in the *Official Gazette* and/or in at least two (2) newspapers of national  
8 circulation.

Approved,

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