



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 77

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEL MAR, DATUMANONG, LIBANAN, CODILLA, AMIN,
ROQUERO AND SOON-RUIZ

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE VENUE OF THE CRIMINAL AND
CIVIL ACTION IN LIBEL CASES AGAINST COMMUNITY
JOURNALISTS, PUBLICATIONS OR BROADCAST STATIONS

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

1 SECTION 1. *Venue.* – The criminal or civil action in cases of libel
2 against a community journalist, publication or broadcast station shall be filed
3 in the Regional Trial Court of the province or city where the principal office or
4 place of business of the said community journalist, publication or broadcast
5 station is located: *Provided, That* the civil action shall be filed in the same
6 court where the criminal action is filed.

7 The term “community journalist, publication or broadcast station” shall
8 be understood to mean a journalist or news medium that operates within a

1 limited area of circulation or broadcast in a city, province or region, as defined
2 under existing laws.

3 SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall
4 be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not
5 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

6 SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations or
7 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
8 amended or modified accordingly.

9 SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
10 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two national
11 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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