

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session


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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
S. B. 2668

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Introduced by Senator Villar

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The tremendous potential of the internet has proved to be unimaginable for the Philippines. It has bridged information gaps and has opened infinite possibilities to people located even in the remotest area in the country. Opportunities brought about by this electronic era, however, has cast a shadow of problems, one of which is the birth of the "electronic libel" or e-libel.

Unfortunately, unscrupulous individuals have found and exploited with impunity a new avenue to defame another —through the use of the electronic media (i.e. blogs, Facebook or Twitter, etc.). This is brought about by the uncertainty in the Philippine laws on libel which arguably did not include publication through electronic means.

To remove any doubt in the interpretation of the laws and ensure that no tables are unturned, this measure is earnestly sought.

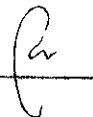
  
**MANNY VILLAR**

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING ARTICLE 355 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED**

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

**SECTION 1.** Article 355 of the Revised Penal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Art. 355. *Libel means by writings or similar means.* — A libel committed by means of writing, printing, lithography, engraving, radio, phonograph, painting, theatrical exhibition, cinematographic exhibition, **ELECTRONIC MEDIA SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE INTERNET**, or any similar means, shall be punished by prison correccional in its minimum and medium periods or a fine ranging from 200 to 6,000 pesos, or both, in addition to the civil action which may be brought by the offended party.

**SECTION 2.** Repealing Clause. — Except those provisions provided under Republic Act 8792 otherwise known as the "Electronic Commerce Act of 2000", all laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 3.** Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.