

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 35

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 53, 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" was passed in 1946 upon the proposal of the late Senator Vicente Yap Sotto when dissemination of news and investigative reports was not as sophisticated as it is today.

Technology has advanced by leaps and bounds and with it, the expansion of the coverage of mass media where news and investigative reports are not only broadcast through the print media, but also through radio, television, cable and the internet. The law was conceived at a time when today's technology was unthinkable. Nonetheless, the purpose of the law of protecting and enhancing the freedom of the press, so as to inform the public of current events and issues that affect their lives, remains relevant and important.

To conform with the changes of the times and further protect the freedom of the press, it is proposed that the said law be amended to expressly include the responsible personnel from radio, television, cable and internet-based media from the exemption contemplated by the law.

In view thereof, earnest approval of this bill is requested.


VICENTE C. SOTTO III



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AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 53, 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".

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

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

"Section 1. The publisher, editor, **{STATION MANAGER, PRODUCER, NEWS DIRECTOR,}** or duly accredited reporter of any **{PRINT, BROADCAST OR ELECTRONIC MASS MEDIA, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO,}** newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation, **{RADIO, TELEVISION, CABLE, INTERNET SITE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC MEDIA OUTLET}** cannot be compelled to reveal the source of any news-report or information appearing in said publication which was related in confidence to such publisher, editor or reporter, unless the court or a House or committee of Congress finds that such revelation is demanded by the interest of the State."

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause - In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.