




Senate  
Office of the Secretary

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

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SENATE

S.B. NO. 1255

RECEIVED BY: 

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Prepared and Submitted by the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media, with Senators Sotto and Trillanes IV as authors thereof

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AN ACT

**EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF EXEMPTIONS FROM REVEALING THE SOURCE OF PUBLISHED NEWS OR INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE BY INCLUDING JOURNALISTS FROM BROADCAST, NEWS AGENCIES AND INTERNET PUBLICATIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT 53, AS AMENDED BY R.A. 1477**

*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, otherwise known as  
2 "An Act to Exempt the Publisher, Editor or Reporter of any Publication from  
3 Revealing the Source of Published News or Information Obtained in  
4 Confidence", as amended by Republic Act 1477, is hereby further amended,  
5 to read as follows:

6           "Section 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the  
7 civil and criminal laws, [the] **ANY** publisher, **OWNER**, [editor,  
8 columnist] or duly **RECOGNIZED OR** accredited  
9 **JOURNALIST, WRITER**, reporter, [of any newspaper,  
10 magazine or periodical of general circulation] **CONTRIBUTOR,**  
11 **OPINION WRITER, EDITOR, COLUMNIST, MANAGER,**  
12 **MEDIA PRACTITIONER INVOLVED IN THE WRITING,**  
13 **EDITING, PRODUCTION, AND DISSEMINATION OF NEWS**

1           **FOR MASS CIRCULATION, OF ANY PRINT, BROADCAST,**  
2           **WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, OR ELECTRONIC MASS**  
3           **MEDIA, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE INTERNET,**  
4           **AND CABLE TV AND ITS VARIANTS,** cannot be compelled to  
5           reveal the source of any news[-] **ITEM,** report or information  
6           appearing [in] **OR BEING REPORTED OR DISSEMINATED**  
7           **THROUGH** said [publication] **MEDIA,** which was related in  
8           confidence to [such publisher, editor or reporter] **THE**  
9           **ABOVEMENTIONED MEDIA PRACTITIONERS** unless the  
10          court or [a] **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR THE**  
11          **SENATE OR ANY** committee of Congress finds that such  
12          revelation is demanded by the security of the State.”

13          **SEC. 2. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules  
14          or regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
15          are hereby repealed or modified.

16          **SEC. 3. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
17          its complete publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

18          Approved,  
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