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SENATE  
S. No. 1740

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**


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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The business of a customs broker is a specialized field that usually covers transactions with the Bureau of Customs concerning the release of cargo. This has been the traditional role of customs brokers, not only in the Philippines, but also throughout the world.

The present definition of the scope of the practice of customs brokers in Section 6 of Republic Act No. 9280, otherwise known as the Customs Brokers Act of 2004, however, not only expands the field of customs brokers, contrary to the traditional role of customs brokers, but it also encroaches upon other professions, most especially the practice of law, when it includes "consultation" and "representing importers and exporters before any government agency and private entities in cases related to valuation and classification of imported articles and rendering of other professional services in matters relating to customs and tariff laws, its procedures and practices."

This puts customs brokers on an even keel with members of the Bar without the requisite qualification in education and character to protect the public from the incompetence or dishonesty of those unlicensed to practice law. It also deprives other customs service providers such as tax consultants of their livelihood. For this and the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator

