

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 JUL 25 P2:31

SENATE
S. No. 881

RECEIVED



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
PREScribing ELECTRONIC AND ONLINE MODALITIES FOR THE
PROMULGATION OF LAWS, RESOLUTIONS, RULES AND OTHER
ISSUANCES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 18, 24 AND 25
CHAPTER 5, BOOK 1 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292 OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the right of the people to information on matters of public concern. Further, citizens shall be afforded access to official records and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.¹

Moreover, Republic Act No. 386, otherwise known as the Civil Code of the Philippines, sets the effectivity of laws to fifteen days following the completion of their publication in the Official Gazette, unless otherwise provided.²

However, limited access to and knowledge of the Official Gazette denies the public of their right to information. Thus, Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, mandated the publication of laws in at least two newspapers of general circulation as an alternative to their publication in the Official Gazette.

In this day and age, the internet has become a more efficient medium for information dissemination. This bill seeks to require the publication of laws in the online edition of the Official Gazette over and above publication in newspapers of

¹ Section 7, Article III, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

² Section 2, Civil Code of the Philippines.

general circulation. This is a way to utilize technological advancement to enable the people to utilize the right to information.

Hence, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Grace Poe
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GP

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RECA 011

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**AN ACT
PRESCRIBING ELECTRONIC AND ONLINE MODALITIES FOR THE
PROMULGATION OF LAWS, RESOLUTIONS, RULES AND OTHER
ISSUANCES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 18, 24 AND 25
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Electronic and Online
2 Publication of Laws Act.”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure
4 compliance with the fundamental right of the public to information, specifically on
5 matters of public concern. The State recognizes the vital role of information and
6 communications technology as an alternative to traditional printed or paper editions
7 of newspaper and the Official Gazette in bringing to the people important
8 information for proper guidance and appropriate compliance.

9 Sec. 3. Sections 18, 24 and 25, Chapter 5, Book 1 of Executive Order No. 292
10 are hereby amended to read as follows:

11 “Sec 18. *When Laws Take Effect.* – laws shall take effect after fifteen
12 (15) Days following the completion of their publication in **the**
13 **ELECTRONIC AND PRINT VERSIONS** of the Official Gazette or in a
14 newspaper of general circulation, unless it is otherwise provided.”

1 Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the
2 other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

3 Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, rules or issuances
4 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

5 Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* – shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of
6 its publication in the online or printed edition of the Official gazette, or in at least
7 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,