


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

7 SEP 13 2011

RECEIVED BY: 

**SENATE**

Senate Bill No. 1589

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**INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution provides that, to wit:

Section 14. (2) In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved, x x x

Presentation to the public or media of any person suspected of committing a crime prior to the filing of formal charges against him violates the constitutional right of such person to be presumed innocent. It unduly subjects the suspect to public ridicule and scorn without due process.

To address the problem, this bill proposes that any person who shall violate the said constitutional right shall be held criminally and civilly liable.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



**MANNY VILLAR**

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
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**AN ACT**  
**PROHIBITING THE PRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC OR MEDIA OF**  
**SUSPECTS PRIOR TO THE FILING OF FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST THEM**

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

**SECTION 1.** Prohibited Act. It shall be unlawful for any person to present to the public or media any suspect under investigation by a government agency or office prior to the filing of formal charges against him or her.

**SECTION 2.** Exception. The presentation to the public or media may be allowed upon a written consent of the suspect given with the assistance of counsel preferably of his/her own choice.

**SECTION 3.** Penalty. Any person found guilty of violating the provisions of this Act shall be sentenced to one (1) to five (5) years imprisonment and a fine of not less than P20,000.00.

**SECTION 4.** Separability Clause. If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 5.** Repealing Clause. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule and regulation

contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 6.** Effectivity Cluase. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,