

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 JUL 19 1950

SENATE
S. No. 1604

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Sections 27 and 28 provide:

SEC. 27. The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption.

SEC. 28. Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest.

Further, the Constitution, Article 3, Section 7 states:

The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. 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, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.

Legislation should be a transparent process to allow our stakeholders, citizens and group alike to participate in the process and make sure that the laws we enact are truly reflective of the will of our constituents.

The development of information technology has allowed us to reach more Filipinos around the world faster than ever. By making use of this technology, we will be able to empower our citizens by providing them access to information on-demand and allowing them to voice their opinion in a more timely manner.

This bill seeks to statutorily establish the duty of our legislative bodies to establish and maintain websites that contains legislative information accessible to our constituents.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 P5:01

SENATE
S. No. **1604**

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENT ACCESSIBILITY
3

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Legislative Document
7 Accessibility Act.”

8 SECTION 2. *Definition.* – For the purposes of this Act, the term –

9 A. LEGISLATIVE BODY – means the Senate or the House of Representatives;

10 B. LEGISLATOR – means a Senator or a Member of the House of Representative;

11 and

12 C. LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS – includes bills, resolution, joint resolutions,
13 journals, committee reports, republic acts, adopted resolutions and other similar
14 documents.

15 D. COMMITTEE – means the appropriate committee in each legislative body

16 SECTION 3. *Provision for a Website.* – Each legislative body shall establish and
17 maintain a website wherein all legislative documents maybe uploaded, searched and downloaded
18 by the Internet users.

19 SECTION 4. *Availability Over the Internet.* – No committee report shall be considered
20 unless such report is available to all Legislators in their respective legislative bodies and made
21 available to the general public by means of the Internet for at least 24 hours before its
22 consideration.

1 This section may be waived or suspended in respective legislative body only by an
2 affirmative vote of 3/5 of their members, duly chosen and sworn.

3 SECTION 5. *Prohibition on late amendments.* – No committee level amendment shall be
4 made after the majority of the committee members have signed the committee report or the after
5 committee report has been uploaded to the committee or the legislative body’s website,
6 whichever comes first.

7 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
8 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
9 valid and subsisting.

10 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
11 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
12 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

13 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

15 Approved,