

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 27 2443

SENATE
S. No. 2162

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill absolutely decriminalizes the crime of libel as defined and penalized in Article 355 of the Revised Penal Code.

The rationale for this proposal is to accord greater protection to freedom of speech and expression specifically those done by means of writing and other similar means by taking away the threat or fear of incarceration, restraint of liberty and even fine.

It is likewise submitted that a strong print media could give great service to the Filipino people in providing an effective mechanism of complete and fearless transparency over the excesses of government in the exercise of its powers and prerogatives.

Immediate passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

18 JUL 27 P4:13

SENATE
S. No. 2162

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT
DECRIMINALIZING LIBEL BY MEANS OF WRITINGS OR SIMILAR
REPEALING ARTICLE 355 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 355 of the Revised Penal Code is hereby completely
2 repealed thereby decriminalizing libel committed by means of writing,
3 printing, lithography, engraving, radio, phonograph, painting, theatrical
4 exhibition, cinematographic exhibition, or any similar means.

5
6 **SEC. 2.** All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and
7 regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby
8 repealed or modified accordingly.

9
10 **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspaper of
12 general circulation whichever comes first.

13
14 Approved,