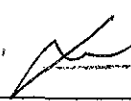


**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Third Regular Session**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 NOV 31 2009

**SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 1565**

RECEIVED BY 

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**Introduced by Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Juan Miguel Zubiri**  
*EDGARDO ANGARA, GREGORIO HONASAN II*

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**A RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PASSAGE OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IS IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO FULLY EXERCISE OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO INFORMATION, THEREFORE URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO RATIFY THE BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BEFORE THE SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS, IN ORDER TO BRING FORTH A LAW THAT WILL EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE AND CONTRIBUTE DECISIVELY TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR GOVERNANCE LANDSCAPE**

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Constitution, in Section 28 of Article II, states that “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;”

**WHEREAS**, it also states, in Section 7 of Article III, that “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;”

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Fourteenth Congress, to enable the aforesaid provisions of the Constitution, and to address the public’s clamor for transparency in the government, crafted legislation that will define the limitations of the Right to Information as provided for in the Declaration of Principles and State Policies and the Bill of Rights;

**WHEREAS**, on May 12, 2008, the House of Representatives approved on third reading House Bill No. 3732, “An Act Implementing the Right of Access to Information on Matters of Public Concern Guaranteed Under Section 28, Article II, and Section 7, Article III, of the 1987 Constitution, and for Other Purposes;”

**WHEREAS**, on December 14, 2009, the Senate approved on third reading the counterpart bill, Senate Bill No. 3308, “An Act Implementing the Right of the



People to Information on Matters of Public Concern Guaranteed Under Section Seven, Article Three of the 1987 Constitution and the State Policy of Public Disclosure of All Its Transactions Involving Public Interest Under Section Twenty-Eight, Article Two of the 1987 Constitution, and For Other Purposes”, with Senators Aquino, Arroyo, Ejercito-Estrada, Enrile, Escudero, Gordon, Honasan, Lapid, Pangilinan, Pimentel Jr., Revilla and Zubiri voting in favor of the measure;

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2010, the House and Senate panel met to reconcile the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 3732 and Senate Bill No. 3308, and thereafter, after such disagreeing provisions were reconciled, came up with a Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the harmonized version of the bill, short titled “The Freedom of Information Act of 2009;”

**WHEREAS**, the Senate, being satisfied with the Bicameral Conference Committee Report and knowing the importance of the said piece of legislation, immediately ratified the same on February 1, 2010. The House of Representatives, on the other hand, however, was not able to ratify the same due to lack of quorum;

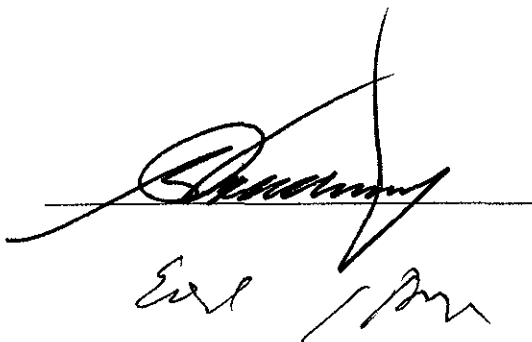
**WHEREAS**, as the Fourteenth Congress is now drawing to a close with only a few more days left in its legislative calendar before it adjourns Sine Die, the Senate is concerned that what has been achieved in this important advocacy will only be put to waste if the House of Representatives will not be able to ratify the said bicameral report on the Freedom of Information Act of 2009;

**WHEREAS**, numerous national and international organizations of media, professionals, business, and civil society sectors have long been clamoring for the passage of this measure that seeks to uphold the Constitution’s guarantee of right to information;

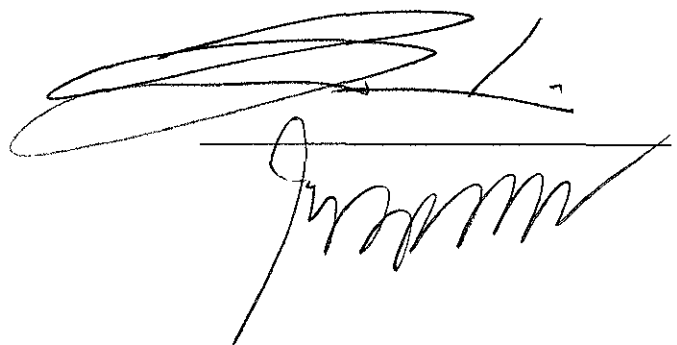
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED TO EXPRESS, AS IT HEREBY EXPRESSES**, the sense of the Senate, That the passage of the Freedom of Information Act is important in order to fully exercise our Constitutional right to Information, urging the House of Representatives to ratify the Bicameral Conference Committee Report before the Sine Die adjournment of the Fourteenth Congress, and bring forth a law that will empower our people and contribute decisively to the transformation of our governance landscape.

**RESOLVED FINALLY THAT**, copy of this resolution be furnished immediately to the House of Representatives for appropriate action.

Adopted ,



Handwritten signature of a senator, appearing to be 'Enrile', written over a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of a senator, appearing to be 'Aquino', written over a horizontal line.