SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session



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SENATE S. B. No. **2807**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT REQUIRING GOVERNMENT OFFICES, BUREAUS, AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES AND AFFILIATES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, TO DISCLOSE CONTACT INFORMATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 3, Section 7 states 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.

The government should be accessible to the public. To ensure that the public

gets the right information in getting in touch with any government agency, disclosure of

their contact details should be included first and foremost in their official stationeries.¹

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SAN

¹ This bill was previously filed during the Thirteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Government Contact
 Act."

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy*. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State 4 to be accessible to the public in order to better administer its duties and 5 responsibilities.

6 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The term "government offices, bureaus, 7 agencies, instrumentalities, affiliates, including government-owned and controlled 8 corporations" refer to an administrative unit of the government, including all the agencies 9 of the government.

10 SECTION 4. Government Offices, Bureaus, Agencies, Instrumentalities, Affiliates, 11 Including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations to Include Addresses, Email 12 Addresses, Website Addresses, Phone Numbers, and Mobile Phone Numbers on Their 13 Stationeries. – All government offices, bureaus, agencies, instrumentalities, affiliates, 14 including government-owned and controlled corporations shall include its addresses, 15 email addresses, website addresses, phone numbers and mobile phone numbers, on their official stationeries. In the case of correspondence originating from a regional or local
 office of a government agency, the agency shall include the address and phone number of
 the regional or local office on the stationery.

4 SECTION 5. *Exception.* – This shall not apply in any case in which compliance 5 with Section 4 would not be in the national security interests of the Republic of the 6 Philippines, as determined by the head of the agency.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
provisions hereof.

10 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or 11 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby 12 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/dpmMay2015

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