

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. No. 1009




Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, Article 3, Section 7 states that:

“Section 7. 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.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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Third Regular Session)

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S.B. No. 0000

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

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Government Contact Act of 2007.”

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

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

SECTION 4. *Requirement for Government Offices, Bureaus, Agencies, Instrumentalities, Affiliates, Including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations to Include Addresses, Phone Numbers and Mobile Phone Numbers, on their Stationeries.*

– Each government offices, bureaus, agencies, instrumentalities, affiliates, including government-owned and controlled corporations shall include its 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.

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

SECTION 6. *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 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,

spsc/5-28-07