

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

SENATE

S. No. 421

RECEIVED



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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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**Explanatory Note**

Under Republic Act No. 53, members of the press (i.e., print media) enjoy protection from being compelled to reveal their sources except in cases involving national security, as determined by the courts or any Committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

Because of advances in broadcast and communications technology, there is no doubt that members of the broadcast media (i.e., radio and television reporters, commentators, talk show hosts, internet reporters, bloggers, etc.), now play an equally important role in the dissemination of news and as well as in shaping public opinion and public policy, not to mention in exposing corruption and anomalies in government.

Hence, it is imperative that the protection enjoyed by members of the print media be extended also to broadcast media practitioners.

Accordingly, the passage of this bill is earnestly enjoined.



**ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV**

Senator

SENATE  
S. No. 421

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 53, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN**  
**ACT TO EXEMPT THE PUBLISHER, EDITOR OR REPORTER OF ANY**  
**PUBLICATION FROM REVEALING THE SOURCE OF PUBLISHED NEWS OR**  
**INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE BY INCLUDING WITHIN ITS**  
**COVERAGE JOURNALISTS FROM BROADCAST, NEWS AGENCIES AND**  
**INTERNET PUBLICATIONS**

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

1       **SECTION 1. *Amendment of Section 1, R.A. 53.***- Section 1 of Republic Act No. 53, as  
2 amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

3  
4               "Section 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the civil and criminal  
5 laws, [the publisher, editor, columnist or duly accredited reporter of any  
6 newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation cannot be compelled to  
7 reveal the source of any news-report or information appearing in said publication  
8 which was related in confidence to such publisher, editor or reporter unless the  
9 court or a House or committee of Congress] A DULY ACCREDITED  
10 JOURNALIST OF ANY PRINT, BROADCAST, INTERNET, OR WIRE  
11 SERVICE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING THE PUBLISHER, STATION  
12 OWNER AND/OR MANAGER, BUREAU CHIEF/ EDITOR, NEWS EDITOR,  
13 WRITER OR REPORTER, CORRESPONDENT, OPINION COLUMNIST OR  
14 COMMENTATOR, CARTOONIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, OR OTHER  
15 PRACTITIONER INVOLVED IN THE WRITING, EDITING, COMMENTING  
16 ON THE NEWS FOR MASS CIRCULATION CANNOT BE COMPELLED TO

1 REVEAL THE SOURCE OF ANY NEWS ITEM, NEWS REPORT OR  
2 INFORMATION APPEARING OR BEING REPORTED OR DISSEMINATED  
3 IN SAID MEDIA, WHICH WAS RELATED IN CONFIDENCE TO SUCH  
4 JOURNALIST OR PRACTITIONER UNLESS THE COURT OR THE HOUSE  
5 OF REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE OR ANY OF ITS COMMITTEES  
6 finds that such revelation is demanded by the security of the State.”

7  
8 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or regulations or  
9 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified.

10  
11 **SEC. 3. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
12 publication in at least two newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,