

10 JUL -7 AIC 24

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 566

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The key to effective and relevant government policy is open consultation where people's opinions are heard and channels are open to participative governance. There is, however, a limit to participation in governance, and a line should be drawn where consultation ends and the possibility of interference begins.

When a non-government entity occupies a portion of a government office, the physical closeness creates an impression of intimacy and the possibility of mutual influence. This simple presence of a non-government entity also operates as the government's unintentional endorsement for whatever purpose of the non-government entity. More importantly, communications, or even private information or confidential documents in the custody of government offices should be protected and secured at all times.

This measure prohibits the actual occupation by non-government entities of government office premises, as well as the provision of any material support by the government to the offices of these non-government entities. Without necessarily creating an impression of distrust or skepticism, this measure merely ensures that the interest of the government is protected.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly urged.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

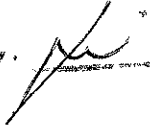
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

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**AN ACT**  
**PROHIBITING THE GOVERNMENT FROM ALLOWING ANY NON-**  
**GOVERNMENT ENTITY FROM OCCUPYING ANY BUILDING, OFFICE OR**  
**OTHER PREMISES WHERE GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS ARE BEING**  
**PERFORMED**

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

**SECTION 1.** Unless otherwise provided by law, all government departments, agencies, bureaus, offices or instrumentalities are prohibited from leasing, renting, lending or otherwise allowing any non-government entity, whether domestic or foreign, to occupy any building, office or other premises where such department, agency, bureau, office or instrumentality is holding office or otherwise performing governmental functions.

**SEC 2.** Unless otherwise provided by law, the government is likewise prohibited from using government funds for the provision of any material, supplies, utilities or goods for the maintenance or functioning of any office of any non-government entity, whether domestic or foreign and whether or not they are located in any government building, office or other premises. This prohibition shall include the provision of government personnel hours for the maintenance of functioning of any office of any non-government entity, whether domestic or foreign.

**SEC 3.** Any person who shall violate the provisions of this Act shall be imprisoned for a period of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years in the discretion of the court and a fine of not more than twenty thousand pesos (P 20,000.00).

**SEC 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*