

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session

8 JUL 29 11:11

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.No. 2490

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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under the present law, Republic Act No. 53, the publisher, editor, columnist or duly accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of any news-report or information unless the court or a House or committee of Congress finds that such revelation is demanded by the security of the State. Apparently, the above law covers only the members of the print media and not to broadcast media practitioners.

This bill intends to include in the coverage of the law the broadcast media practitioners. The latter should likewise enjoy the protection given to the members of the print media since they equally play an important part in the dissemination of news and information to the public.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANNY VILLAR

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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 the House of Representatives in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1 . Section 1 of Republic Act No. 53, as amended, is hereby under amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the civil and criminal laws, [the publisher, editor, columnist or duly accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of any news-report or information appearing in said publication which was related in confidence to such publisher, editor or reporter unless the court or a House or committee of Congress] **A DULY ACCREDITED JOURNALIST OF ANY PRINT, BROADCAST, INTERNET, OR WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING THE PUBLISHER, STATION OWNER AND/OR MANAGER, BUREAU CHIEF, EDITOR, NEWS EDITOR, WRITER OR REPORTER, CORRESPONDENT, OPINION COLUMNIST OR COMMENTATOR, CARTOONIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, OR OTHER PRACTITIONER INVOLVED IN THE WRITING, EDITING, COMMENTING ON THE NEWS FOR MASS CIRCULATION CANNOT BE COMPELLED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF ANY NEWS ITEM, NEWS REPORT OR INFORMATION APPEARING OR BEING REPORTED OR DISSEMINATED IN SAID MEDIA, WHICH WAS RELATED IN CONFIDENCE TO SUCH JOURNALIST OR PRACTITIONER UNLESS THE COURT OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE OR ANY OF ITS COMMITTEES finds that such revelation is demanded by the security of the State."**

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – The provisions of Article 201 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended, and the provisions of all other laws, decrees,

executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

*SEC. 3. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,