



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 362

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEL MAR, RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.)
AND ABAYON

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

3 "SECTION 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the
4 civil and criminal laws, [the publisher, editor, columnist or duly
5 accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of
6 general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of
7 any news-report or information appearing in said publication
8 which was related in confidence to such publisher, editor or
9 reporter unless the court or a House or Committee of Congress]

1 A DULY ACCREDITED JOURNALIST OF ANY LEGITIMATE PRINT,
2 BROADCAST, INTERNET, OR WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION,
3 STATION OR NETWORK, INCLUDING THE PUBLISHER, STATION
4 OWNER AND/OR MANAGER, BUREAU CHIEF, EDITOR,
5 NEWS EDITOR, WRITER OR REPORTER, CORRESPONDENT,
6 OPINION COLUMNIST OR COMMENTATOR, CARTOONIST,
7 PHOTOGRAPHER, OR OTHER PRACTITIONER INVOLVED IN THE
8 GATHERING, WRITING, EDITING OF, OR COMMENTING ON THE
9 NEWS FOR MASS CIRCULATION OR BROADCAST CANNOT BE
10 COMPELLED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF ANY NEWS ITEM,
11 NEWS REPORT OR INFORMATION APPEARING OR BEING
12 REPORTED, DISSEMINATED OR COMMENTED ON IN SAID MEDIA,
13 WHICH WAS RELAYED IN CONFIDENCE TO SUCH JOURNALIST
14 OR PRACTITIONER UNLESS THE COURT OR THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE OR ANY OF ITS
16 COMMITTEES finds that such revelation is demanded by the
17 security of the State.”

18 SEC. 2. Insert a new Section 2 after Section 1 of Republic Act No. 53,
19 as amended, to read as follows:

20 “SEC. 2. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, A DULY
21 ACCREDITED JOURNALIST OR PRACTITIONER OF ANY
22 LEGITIMATE PRINT, BROADCAST, INTERNET, OR WIRE SERVICE
23 ORGANIZATION, STATION OR NETWORK, IS ONE WHO IS
24 ACCREDITED WITH ANY REPUTABLE ASSOCIATION OF MEDIA
25 PERSONS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE PHILIPPINE
26 INFORMATION AGENCY-PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS
27 OPERATIONS OFFICE (PIA-PCOO), THE NATIONAL PRESS
28 CLUB (NPC), THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS OF THE
29 PHILIPPINES (NUJP), AND THE KAPISANAN NG MGA

1 **BROADCASTER NG PILIPINAS (KBP), AND/OR ONE WHO IS A**
2 **REGULAR EMPLOYEE OF A LEGITIMATE PRINT, BROADCAST,**
3 **INTERNET, OR WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, STATION OR**
4 **NETWORK: *PROVIDED*, THAT ANY JOURNALIST ENGAGED BY**
5 **ANY LEGITIMATE MEDIA COMPANY SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE**
6 **AN ACCREDITED JOURNALIST.”**

7 SEC. 3. Any law, decree, ordinance, rule or regulation inconsistent with
8 or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

9 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
10 in the *Official Gazette* and/or in at least two (2) newspapers of national
11 circulation.

 Approved,

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