

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 5694**

Introduced by: **HON. SALVIO B. FORTUNO**

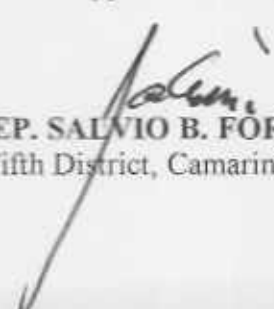
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 6713 otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees was enacted on February 20, 1989 primarily to promote a high standard of ethics in public service. This landmark legislation specially mandates that "Public officials and employees have an obligation to accomplish and submit declarations under oath of, and the public has right to know, their assets, liabilities, net worth (SALN) and financial and business interests including those of their spouses and of unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households". (Underscoring supplied).

Notwithstanding this explicit mandate, the Supreme Court came up with a directive that any request for a copy of SALN of any Justice may be denied to shield them allegedly from "deceptive request" for information that could lead to intimidation, harassments and "fishing expeditions". This directive therefore clearly defeats the noble objectives of the law that the State shall promote a high standard of ethics in public service, that the public has right to know and that public officials shall uphold public interest over and above personal interest.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this bill is to plug whatever loopholes in the law by providing for the centralization of filing the SALN with the Office of the Ombudsman thru the respective offices as mentioned in the law and to authorize its disclosure to the public without any condition. The controversy generated by the refusal of the Supreme Court to disclose to the public the SALN of the Chief Justice will not be repeated as the Office of the Ombudsman will now be the repository of the SALN of public officials beyond the control of the heads of offices.

The foregoing reasons warrant the immediate approval of this bill.

  
**REP. SALVIO B. FORTUNO**  
Fifth District, Camarines Sur

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE CENTRALIZATION OF FILING OF STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH (SALN) OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND ITS MANDATORY DISCLOSURE TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 8 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6713 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 8 (A) of Republic Act No. 6713 otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees is hereby amended to read as follows:

**“Section 8. Statements and Disclosure.** – Public officials and employees have an obligation to accomplish and submit declarations under oath of, and the public has the right to know, their assets, liabilities, net worth and financial and business interests including those of their spouses and of unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households.

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The Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth and the Disclosure of Business Interests and Financial Connections shall be filed by PUBLIC OFFICIALS WITH THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN THRU THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- (1) Constitutional and local officials, with the national office of the Ombudsman;
- (2) Senators and Congressmen, [with] THRU the Secretaries of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively; Justices [with]

THRU the Clerk of Court of the Supreme Court; Judges, [with] THRU the Court Administrator; and all national executive officials [with] THRU the Office of the President.

- (3) Regional and local officials and employees, [with] THRU the Deputy Ombudsman in their respective regions;
- (4) Officers of the armed forces from the rank of colonel or naval captain, [with] THRU the Office of the President, and those below said ranks, [with] THRU the Deputy Ombudsman in their respective regions; and
- (5) All other public officials and employees defined in Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, with the Civil Service Commission."

**SEC. 2.** The Ombudsman shall cause the publication of summary of SALN of public officials in any newspaper of general circulation.

**SEC. 3.** The Civil Service Commission (CSC), in consultation with the Ombudsman, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*