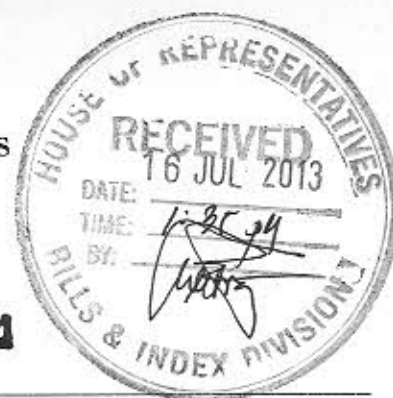


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **1474**



Introduced by Reps. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, NERI J. COLMENARES,
ANTONIO L. TINIO and TERRY RIDON

AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE OF JULY 25 OF EVERY YEAR
AS THE NATIONAL CAMPUS FREEDOM DAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The campus press has long been known for its historic role and contribution to press freedom in the country. The 25th of July is a momentous day for the campus press. The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP), an alliance of tertiary student publications nationwide - the largest and oldest organization of its kind in the Asia Pacific Region, was founded on July 25, 1931. The date also coincides with the birthday of Ernesto Rodriguez Jr., founder of the CEGP and former editor in chief of *The National* (the campus publication of the National University).

The Guild, a patriotic and democratic organization, is the center for the advancement of campus press freedom in the Philippines. It aims to uphold and defend the interest and welfare of student journalists, its student-publishers, and the Filipino people.

Campus journalists who have served with CEGP continue to pursue the organization's advocacies even after their years in college. Alumni, such as government officials, public servants, civil society leaders and activists, media practitioners, business and industry leaders, and personalities grace the CEGP history's list of student leaders.

As part of the alternative press during the dark days of martial law, campus media helped expose the real state of the country during the dictatorship. Today, the campus press continues to defend the interest and welfare of the Filipino people by tackling both national and sectoral issues – providing a free and adequate venue for the discussion of student concerns.

It is in this light that this legislation aims to declare the 25th of July of every year as the "National Campus Press Freedom Day."

Approved on third reading during the 15th Congress, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Approved,


Rep. NERI J. COLMENARES
Bayan Muna Party-list


Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI F. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list


Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list


Rep. TERRY RIDON
Kabataan Party-list

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This act shall be known as the "National Campus Press Freedom Day Act of 2013."

SECTION 2. The freedom of the press is a constitutionally afforded right. The campus press, as part of media, is an important institution in society that promotes and protects the freedom of the press and the freedom of expression. Enough proof is its historical role as part of the alternative media during the dark days of martial law. It continues its legacy by upholding the interests and rights of students. As a testament to its remarkable contribution in the continued advancement of freedom of the press, the 25th of July of every year is hereby declared National Campus Press Freedom Day.

SECTION 3. All educational institutions, in elementary, secondary and tertiary levels, are hereby mandated to provide their full support and assistance to events and activities to be conducted by students in recognition of the National Campus Press Freedom Day.

SECTION 4. *Statutory Construction.* - Any doubt in the interpretation of this Act shall be resolved in favor of freedom of the press and the recognition of the National Campus Press Freedom Day.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,