

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

1963

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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. This measure was previously filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15th Congress. Passage of this Bill is earnestly sought now in the 16th Congress.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Harlin Cast. Abayon.

HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1963

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast, 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 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,