

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6190**



INTRODUCED BY HON. RAUL V. DEL MAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Various sectors of media in the province of Cebu – print, radio, television, and online news outlets – have celebrated Cebu Press Freedom Week in September of every year for more than three decades. The annual commemoration, held in the week of September that includes September 21, the anniversary of the date of declaration of martial law in the Philippines, recognizes the significant role of community media as a watchdog of government and catalyst for social change.

The Cebu media has demonstrated through the years its commitment to high standards of journalism and to police its own ranks through such organizations as the Cebu Citizens-Press Council (CCPC), Cebu News Workers Foundation (Cenewof), and Cebu Press Freedom Week, Inc. The Cebu media proudly represents the strategic role of community news organizations in the country and its members have received awards in national journalism competitions, reaping honors not just for the industry but also for Cebu and Cebuanos.

The Cebu Press Freedom Week serves as a compelling reminder for the Cebu media community to uphold press freedom and accountability, symbolizes the media's capacity to set aside professional and business competitiveness, and unite for worthy goals. The celebration of the Cebu Press Freedom Week will be more meaningful and memorable with the declaration of September 21 of every year as a special working holiday to be known as "Cebu Press Freedom Day" in the Cities and Province of Cebu.

Approval of this bill is therefore earnestly sought.


RAUL V. DEL MAR

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AN ACT

DECLARING SEPTEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITIES AND PROVINCE OF CEBU INCLUDING ALL ITS HIGHLY URBANIZED AND COMPONENT CITIES TO BE KNOWN AS "CEBU PRESS FREEDOM DAY"

1 **SECTION 1.** September 21 of every year is hereby declared a Special Working Holiday in the
2 Cities and Province of Cebu including all its highly urbanized and component cities to be known as
3 "Cebu Press Freedom Day".

4 **SEC. 2.** This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or
5 in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.