

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1220



Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

AN ACT
REQUIRING PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO EXECUTE A
WRITTEN PERMISSION TO EXAMINE, INQUIRE OR LOOK INTO THEIR
BANK DEPOSITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
6713 (RA 6713) OR THE ACT ESTABLISHING A CODE OF CONDUCT AND
ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution explicitly provides that "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives. (Article XI, Section 1) It likewise provides that "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption." (Article II, Section 27)

Section 2 of Republic Act 6713 or *The Act Establishing a Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees*, on the other hand, states that "It is the policy of the State to promote a high standard of ethics in public service. Public officials and employees shall at all times be accountable to the people and shall discharge their duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence, and loyalty, act with patriotism and justice, lead modest lives, and uphold public interest over personal interest."

To fulfill such policies, additional measures to ensure that public officials and employees adhere to the highest ethical standards are needed. Despite deterrents

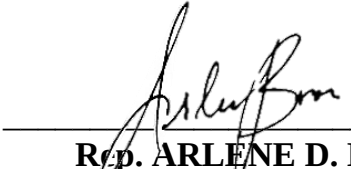
already in place like the annual filing of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SALN), some public officials and employees still find ways to hide undeclared income. This in turn hampers transparent governance and anti-corruption mechanisms. One of the most common go-to legal loophole is the old law on the secrecy of bank deposits, Republic Act 1405 (1955), as a cloak against the authority of the Ombudsman and its Deputies as the “protectors of the people” in matters of public office and public trust.

This Bill was first filed in the 17th Congress by Bayan Muna Partylist Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate. It was refiled in the 18th Congress by Bayan Muna Partylist Reps. Carlos Zarate, Ferdinand Gaite, and Eufemia Cullamat.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL
KABATAAN Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Section 8 (A) of RA 6713 or the Act Establishing a 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.

(A) Statements of Assets and Liabilities and Financial Disclosure.
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All public officials and employees required under this section to file the aforestated documents shall also execute, within thirty (30)

days from the date of their assumption of office, the necessary authority in favor of the Ombudsman to obtain from all appropriate government agencies, including the Bureau of Internal Revenue, such documents as may show their assets, liabilities, net worth, and also their business interests and financial connections in previous years, including, if possible, the year when they first assumed any office in the Government. **THEY SHALL LIKEWISE EXECUTE A WRITTEN PERMISSION FOR THE OMBUDSMAN TO EXAMINE, INQUIRE OR LOOK INTO ALL THEIR BANK DEPOSITS, AS AN ADDITIONAL EXCEPTION TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1405 OR THE BANK SECRECY LAW, AS AMENDED.**

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SEC. 2. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect immediately after its complete publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,