

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4773

INTRODUCED BY REP. MAXIMO JR. Y. DALOG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to amend certain provisions of the Intellectual Property Code to resolve its limitations in addressing online infringement.

The evolution of Information Technology from hardware, software, network and connectivity, cybersecurity and the more recent Artificial Intelligence and automation is constant. With these rapid advancements, legal protection for intellectual property, needs to continuously adapt and be up to date.

The current Intellectual Property Code which was last amended in 2013 is wanting in its enforcement against modern online infringements. According to then IPOPHL Director General Atty. Rowel Barba, in 2022 alone, \$781 million dollars excluding taxes was lost due to downloads from illegal sites.¹ He added, that if this will not be addressed, the losses will balloon to \$1 billion dollars by 2027.²

One way to address the ever-evolving ways of online infringement is to implement agile administrative remedies like expanding IPOPHL's power to block infringing websites or websites which facilitate copyright infringement and the like.

In order therefore to put a halt to the substantial losses due to online infringement and to protect the creative industry, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MAXIMO JR. Y. DALOG

¹ Online Piracy Causes Revenue Losses, Says IPOPHL, May 1, 2024, available: <https://pep.inquirer.net/2191/online-piracy-causes-revenue-loss-says-ipophl> (last accessed, September 23, 2025).

² Ibid.

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8293, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

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

SEC. 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8293, as amended, otherwise known as the “Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Definitions. – 4.1 x x x.

“4.5 THE TERM “COUNTERFEIT GOODS” REFER TO GOODS OR MATERIALS INCLUDING PACKAGING BEARING WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION A TRADEMARK WHICH IS IDENTICAL TO A TRADEMARK VALIDLY REGISTERED WITH THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES (IPOPHL) OR ALREADY DECLARED AS A WELL-KNOWN MARK INTERNATIONALLY OR IN THE PHILIPPINES BY A COMPETENT AUTHORITY IN RESPECT OF SUCH GOODS OR WHICH CANNOT BE DISTINGUISHED IN ITS ESSENTIAL ASPECTS FROM SUCH A TRADEMARK AND WHICH THEREBY VIOLATES THE RIGHTS OF THE OWNER OF THE TRADEMARK IN QUESTION.”

“4.6. THE TERM “PIRATED GOODS” REFER TO GOODS OR MATERIALS OR CONTENT, WHETHER TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE, IN ELECTRONIC OR DIGITAL FORM, WHICH ARE MADE, PRODUCED, COPIED, REPRODUCED, DISSEMINATED, DISTRIBUTED, IMPORTED, USED, REMOVED, ALTERED, SUBSTITUTED, MODIFIED, STORAGE, UPLOADED, DOWNLOADED, COMMUNICATED, MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, OR PROTECTED MATERIAL BROADCASTED, OR

REPLICATED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE RIGHT HOLDER OR PERSON DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE RIGHT HOLDER AND WHICH ARE MADE, PRODUCED, OR REPLICATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM AN ARTICLE WHERE THE MAKING OF THAT COPY WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED AN INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT OR RELATED RIGHTS.”

SEC. 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8293, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“**SEC. 5.** *Functions of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO).* – x x x

“x x x

“**5.3.** THE OFFICE SHALL PERFORM THE FOLLOWING ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS:

“(A) GATHER INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION RELATED TO THE VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT, CONDUCT INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION, AND DEVELOP EFFECTIVE COUNTERMEASURES TO DETER COUNTERFEIT OR PIRATED GOODS OR CONTENT;

“(B) CONDUCT VISITS DURING REASONABLE HOURS TO ESTABLISHMENTS AND BUSINESSES OR ACTIVITIES SUSPECTED TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THIS ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED HEREIN;

“(C) DEVELOP A DATABASE OF PENDING CASES INVOLVING VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT;

“(D) UNDERTAKE ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS:

“(1) SERVE AND EXECUTE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS DULY ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS POWERS UNDER THIS ACT;

“(2) ISSUE NOTICE OR WARNING TO THE RESPONDENT OR RESPONDENTS;

“(3) RECOMMEND THAT THE CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT AND/OR OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY CANCEL LICENCES AND BUSINESS PERMITS OF ESTABLISHMENTS OR BUSINESSES FOR ENGAGING IN SELLING OR MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC COUNTERFEIT OR PIRATED GOODS OR FILE CHARGES AGAINST

THE RESPONDENTS FOR VIOLATION OF APPLICABLE LAWS, RULES OR REGULATIONS;

“(4) REQUEST THE CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OR OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISIONS OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT PURSUANT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE MANDATES;

“(5) REPORT THE RESULT OF SERVICE AND EXECUTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS; AND

“(6) SUCH OTHER ORDERS OR ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CODE ACT.

“(E) COORDINATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS ON MATTERS RELATED TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT;

“(F) ASSIST IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS, WRITS, AND PROCESSES ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL;

“(G) CONDUCT MONITORING ACTIVITIES RELATED OR RELEVANT TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT;

“(H) EXERCISE INTER-AGENCY SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION FUNCTIONS; AND

“(I) SUCH OTHER POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR INCIDENTAL TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT OR AS MAY BE ASSIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL.”

SEC. 3. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8293, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. *The Bureau of Legal Affairs.* – The Bureau of Legal Affairs shall have the following functions:

”10.1 x x x;

”10.2 (a) x x x.

”10.2 (b) After formal investigation, the Director for Legal Affairs may impose one (1) or more of the following administrative penalties;

”x x x

“ (v) The imposition of administrative fines in such amount as deemed reasonable by the Director of Legal Affairs, which shall in no case be less than [Five thousand pesos (Php 5, 000)] **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (100,000)** nor more than [One hundred fifty thousand pesos (150,000)] **ONE MILLION PESOS (PHP 1,000,000)**. In addition, an additional fine of not more than [One thousand pesos (Php 1,000)] **TEN THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 10,000)** shall be imposed for each day of continuing violation;

“x x x

“THE DECISIONS OF THE ADJUDICATION OFFICERS ARE APPELABLE TO THE DIRECTOR.

“10.3. ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS; AND

“10.4. PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO OTHER BUREAUS AND OFFICES OF THE IPOPHL, INCLUDING LEGAL REVIEW, STUDY, AND SIMILAR TASKS.

“10.[3]5. The Director General may by Regulations establish the procedure to govern the implementation of this Section.”

SEC. 4. Section 216 of Republic Act No. 8293, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 216. *Infringement.* – Any person infringes a right protected under this Act when one:

“(a) x x x;

“(b) x x x;

“(c) x x x.

“216-A. *PREVENTIVE ACTION ON ONLINE INFRINGEMENT.*
– UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, OR UNLESS OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE COURT OF LAW, THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE SHALL HAVE THE POWER, AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, TO DISABLE ACCESS TO AN ONLINE LOCATION PREVENT FURTHER ACCESS TO AN ONLINE LOCATION WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE OR PRIMARY EFFECT OF WHICH IS TO INFRINGE COPYRIGHT OR FACILITATE COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT.

“THE COPYRIGHT OWNER OR THE EXCLUSIVE LICENSEE OF COPYRIGHT, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE “ELIGIBLE PARTY,” MAY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE INTELLECTUAL

PROPERTY OFFICE TO ORDER THE DISABLING OF ACCESS TO ANY INFRINGING ONLINE LOCATION IDENTIFIED IN THE APPLICATION.

“THE APPLICATION TO THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY COMPLETING IN ITS ENTIRETY THE FORMS AND DOCUMENTATION AS REQUESTED BY THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE TO ALLOW THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE TO ESTABLISH THAT THE PARTY FILING THE APPLICATION IS AN ELIGIBLE PARTY, OR IS AUTHORISED TO FILE THE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF AN ELIGIBLE PARTY AND VERIFY THROUGH EVIDENCE THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE ORDER APPLIED FOR IS AN INFRINGING ONLINE LOCATION.

“FOR PURPOSES OF THIS CHAPTER, “ONLINE LOCATION” SHALL REFER TO ANY SINGLE OR COLLECTION OF RELATED WEB PAGES ACCESSIBLE BY A USER THROUGH A DOMAIN, IP ADDRESS, OR UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR (URL), OR A SPECIFIC DOMAIN, IP ADDRESS, OR UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR (URL) WHICH SERVES TO OPERATE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AN APPLICATION ON THE INTERNET.

“216-B. *PROCEDURE OF INQUIRY FOR PREVENTIVE ACTION.* – THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE SHALL FORMULATE THE PROCEDURE OF INQUIRY FOR PREVENTIVE ACTION ON ONLINE INFRINGEMENT, ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

“(1) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE APPLICATION FOR ACTION BY AN ELIGIBLE PARTY. THE APPLICATION REFERRED TO IN SECTION 84A SHALL INDICATE: THE FACT THAT, AND THE MANNER WHICH, THE INFRINGING ONLINE LOCATION IS ACCESSIBLE; AND OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE MAY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, INCLUDING:

“(I) WHETHER THE ONLINE LOCATION MAKES AVAILABLE OR CONTAINS DIRECTORIES, INDEXES OR CATEGORIES OF THE MEANS TO INFRINGE, OR FACILITATE AN INFRINGEMENT OF, COPYRIGHT;

“(II) WHETHER THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE ONLINE LOCATION DEMONSTRATES A DISREGARD FOR COPYRIGHT GENERALLY; OR

- “(III) WHETHER ACCESS TO THE ONLINE LOCATION HAS BEEN DISABLED BY ORDERS FROM ANY COURT OF ANOTHER COUNTRY OR TERRITORY ON THE GROUND OF OR RELATED TO COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT.**
- “(2) ONE APPLICATION MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR MULTIPLE INFRINGING ONLINE LOCATIONS, AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION MUST BE MET AND SET OUT IN THE APPLICATION.**
- “(3) THE APPLICANT MUST NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OPERATES THE ONLINE LOCATION OF THE MAKING OF AN APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 1, BUT THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE MAY DISPENSE, ON SUCH TERMS AS IT SEES FIT, WITH THE NOTICE REQUIRED TO BE SENT TO THE PERSON WHO OPERATES THE ONLINE LOCATION IF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE IS SATISFIED THAT THE APPLICANT IS UNABLE, DESPITE REASONABLE EFFORTS, TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY OR ADDRESS OF THE PERSON WHO OPERATES THE ONLINE LOCATION, OR TO SEND NOTICES TO THAT PERSON.**
- “(4) UPON RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION, THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE SHALL REVIEW THE SAME AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE ONLINE LOCATION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (A). IF AN APPLICATION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (A), THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE SHALL GIVE DUE NOTICE OF THE SAME TO THE PERSON WHO OPERATES THE ONLINE LOCATION EITHER BY DIRECTLY CONTACT SUCH PERSON OR BY POSTING SUCH NOTICE PUBLICLY. THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE SHALL, WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS OF GIVING DUE NOTICE, RENDER AN ORDER REQUIRING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO DISABLE ACCESS TO THE INFRINGING ONLINE LOCATION. A COPY OF THE SAID ORDER SHALL LIKEWISE BE GIVEN TO THE ELIGIBLE PARTY.**
- “(5) THE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS MUST COMPLY WITH THE DISABLING ORDERS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE DISABLING ORDER AND MUST DISABLE THE IDENTIFIED INFRINGING ONLINE LOCATIONS BY IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE TECHNICAL MEASURE, OR A MEASURE**

UNDERTAKEN BY THE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER TO DISABLE OR PREVENT ACCESS TO AN INFRINGING LOCATION, AND MAY INCLUDE DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM (DNS) BLOCKING, IP BLOCKING, URL BLOCKING, SERVER NAME INDICATOR BLOCKING, OR OTHER MEANS.

“(6) THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE MAY AT ANY TIME DURING THE OPERATION OF THE ORDERS NOTIFY THE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS SHOULD IT BECOME AWARE THAT ANY INFRINGING ONLINE LOCATION IS ACCESSED FROM AN ADDITIONAL ONLINE LOCATION, INCLUDING ONE THAT APPEARS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY INFRINGING ONLINE LOCATION BASED ON ITS NAME, BRANDING OR THE IDENTITY OF ITS OPERATOR, AND MAKE SUCH DIFFERENT ONLINE LOCATION SUBJECT TO THE ORDERS.

“x x x.”

SEC. 5. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Intellectual Property Office shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. If any provisions of this Act are declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain valid.

SEC. 7. All acts, executive orders, administrative orders, proclamations, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act, are hereby expressly repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,