

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6767



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Introduced by ACT-CIS Party-list Representative ROWENA NIÑA O. TADURAN

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Recently, we've learned that the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) recommended the grant of hazard pay for medical workers in the private sector. This will somehow even the playing field because medical workers in the private sector, unlike their counterparts in the government service, do not receive hazard pay – notwithstanding the fact that all medical workers face the same danger: COVID-19. In this pandemic, however, it is not only the medical workers who are exposed to grave danger. We have all kinds of heroes doing all sorts of good deeds here and there.

During this lockdown period, everyone is anxious. We are all eyes and ears whenever new information comes. We always want to know the latest news on the pandemic. Because we care for everyone's safety, we are always abreast with announcements, issuances, etc. of our health authorities. We owe our awareness of these matters to media workers – people who, day in and day out, deliver the most relevant and vital information to our homes. Because of these brave souls, we are able to know current events while in the safety of our abodes.

Just like medical personnel, media workers bravely go to battle every single day, not knowing whether or not they will still be given the chance to see their loved ones. Each day is a sacrifice for these heroes. They go to hospitals to get updates on COVID-19 cases. They spend time in markets to monitor the prices of and the availability of prime commodities. They stake their health by entering epicenters of infection.

They say that knowledge is power. Our knowledge of the pandemic gives us the power to do things which keep us safe and healthy. However, without media workers, we would not have acquired any knowledge of COVID-19. Hence, it is but fair and humane to give back to those who continue to serve and empower us.

  
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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING OWNERS OF MEDIA COMPANIES**  
**TO GRANT HAZARD PAY TO MEDIA WORKERS, AND FOR OTHER RELATED**  
**PURPOSES.**

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

**Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Media Workers’ Hazard Pay Act”

**Section 2. Declaration of State Policy.** – Policy. It is the declared policy of the State that workers should be entitled to humane conditions of work and living wage.

**Section 3. Coverage.** – This Act shall cover all media workers as defined in, but shall not be limited to, the list below:

Audioman – responsible for assembling, operating, and maintaining the audio and recording equipment; produces high-quality audio material that will be utilized for a program

Broadcaster - a general term applied to a radio or television journalist whose main task includes announcing and/or reading and commenting on news reports;

Cameraman/Camera Operator – responsible for the physical operation of the camera; assembles, prepares, and sets up equipment prior to the production and ensures high video quality for the target program

Correspondent - a journalist hired by a newspaper, magazine, television or radio, wire or wireless broadcast enterprise or online services to dispatch news stories or special reports and paid on a per article basis or per day basis;

- I. Local Correspondent - a journalist hired by a newspaper, magazine, or other publication, television or radio, wire or wireless broadcast enterprise or online service to dispatch news stories or special reports from a specific beat not assigned to a regular reporter such as those in the provinces or some areas where the hiring firm is based and paid on a per article basis;



II. Foreign Correspondent - a journalist hired by an international news organization or network to dispatch news stories or special reports;

Editor – one who edits manuscripts, and news stories for publication in newspapers or magazines, or for airing in television or on radio or for wire, wireless broadcasting and online service and also who manages the editorial staff and news coverage;

Field reporter - one who gathers news in his/her beat and reports them to the desk or radio announcer;

Journalist – one who manages, edits, gathers and writes news stories or articles for newspapers, magazines, or journals, or for airing in television or on radio, and for wire or wireless broadcasting and online service;

Photo Journalist – a person hired or commissioned to take pictures for use in a publication;

Production Assistant – assists whenever and wherever needed in the production; escorts actors and actresses to and from their trailers; assists with crowd control; provides copies of program logistics and/or scripts; collects paperwork; and manages extras.

Production Manager - oversees the production process of a program; approves the topic proposal, project logistics, and production schedules

Publisher – one who manages the production, advertising, circulation of newspapers or magazines or online publications

Radio/TV Announcer - one who announces or reads news reports on radio/TV;

Radio/TV Correspondent - one who makes reports on news event from his beat;

Radio/TV News Editor - one who gives assignments to field reporters or radio correspondents on events considered newsworthy for coverage or airing;

Reporter - a journalist employed by a newspaper, television or radio station, wire or wireless broadcasting and online service to gather and produce news for publication and broadcasting and paid as a regular employee or under contract;

Researcher – researches and develops program ideas; gathers and fact-checks required and relevant data on the program subject

Segment Producer – produces the individual segments that will comprise a television/radio program; usually works for magazine shows or other multi-themed programs.

Stringer - a reporter working for an international news organization, network or broadcast enterprise, wire, wireless broadcasting and online service

Video Editor – assembles, cures, and edits recorded raw materials into a one video output; works during the post-production stage of the program

Video Transcriber – re-edits the television/radio broadcast program into a new format suitable for online broadcast; publishes the programs in the station's online platform

**Section 4. Payment of Hazard Pay.** – Media workers shall be entitled to a hazard pay of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 500.00) for each day that they physically report for work. Workers who are already receiving a daily hazard pay of more than FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 500.00) shall not be entitled to the benefit under this act. Workers who are receiving a daily hazard pay of less than FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 500.00) shall be entitled to the difference. The hazard pay shall be given not later than the end of each month.

**Section 5. Penal Clause.** – Owners of media companies who fail to comply with the provisions of this act shall be penalized by a fine in an amount not less than TWO MILLION PESOS (PHP 2,000,000.00) AND imprisonment of SIX (6) MONTHS.

**Section 6. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act or the applicability of such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the validity of the other provisions of this Act and the applicability of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive issuances, orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act, or any part thereof, are hereby repealed, amended and/or modified accordingly.

**Section 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or at least in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.