

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1479**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
DATE:	<u>12 JUL 2016</u>
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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Introduced by: Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

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#### 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 member 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 15<sup>th</sup> Congress. Passage of this bill is earnestly sought now in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

  
HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON III  
Representative  
Party-List AANGAT TAYO

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**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

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**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 OF INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE BY INCLUDING  
WITHIN ITS COVERAGE JOURNALIST FROM BROADCAST, NEWS  
AGENCIES AND INTERNET PUBLICATIONS"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of the 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 reported 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, CANNOT BE COMPELLED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF ANY NEWS ITEM, 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 OR REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE OR ANY ITS COMMITTEES finds that such revelations is demanded by the security of the State.”**

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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,