

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

SENATE
S. No. 1482

20 MAY -4 P3:29

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RECEIVED BY

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING ELECTRONIC AND ONLINE MODALITIES FOR THE
PROMULGATION OF LAWS, RESOLUTIONS, RULES AND OTHER
ISSUANCES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 18, 24 AND 25
CHAPTER 5, BOOK 1 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292 OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987

Explanatory Note

The 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the right of the people to information on matters of public concern. Further, citizens shall be afforded access to official records and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.¹

Moreover, Republic Act No. 386, otherwise known as the Civil Code of the Philippines, sets the effectivity of laws to fifteen days following the completion of their publication in the Official Gazette, unless otherwise provided.²

However, limited access to and knowledge of the Official Gazette denies the public of their right to information. Thus, Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, mandated the publication of laws in at least two newspapers of general circulation as an alternative to their publication in the Official Gazette.

In this day and age, the internet has become a more efficient medium for information dissemination. This bill seeks to require the publication of laws in the online edition of the Official Gazette over and above publication in newspapers of

¹ Section 7, Article III, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

² Section 2, Civil Code of the Philippines.

general circulation. This is a way to utilize technological advancement to enable the people to utilize the right to information.

Hence, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Electronic and Online
Publication of Laws Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to ensure
compliance with the fundamental right of the public to information, specifically on
matters of public concern. The State recognizes the vital role of information and
communications technology as an alternative to traditional printed or paper editions
of newspaper and the Official Gazette in bringing to the people important
information for proper guidance and appropriate compliance.

Sec. 3. Sections 18, 24 and 25, Chapter 5, Book 1 of Executive Order No. 292
are hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec 18. *When Laws Take Effect.* – laws shall take effect after fifteen
(15) Days following the completion of their publication in **the**
ELECTRONIC AND PRINT VERSIONS of the Official Gazette or in a
newspaper of general circulation, unless it is otherwise provided."

1 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OFFICES MANDATED TO IMPLEMENT
2 THE LAW SHALL PUBLISH AN ELECTRONIC COPY THEREOF IN THEIR
3 OFFICIAL WEB PORTAL; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH
4 ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OTHER THAN THAT PUBLISHED IN THE
5 ONLINE EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE SHALL BE FOR
6 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ONLY.

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10 "Sec. 24. *Contents.* – There shall be published in the **ELECTRONIC**
11 **AND PRINT VERSIONS** of the Official Gazette all legislative acts and
12 resolutions of a public nature; all executive and administrative
13 issuances of general application; decisions or abstracts of decisions of
14 the Supreme Court and Court of appeals, or other courts of similar
15 rank, as may be deemed by the said courts of sufficient importance to
16 be so published; such documents or classes of documents as may be
17 required so to be published by law; and such documents or classes of
18 documents as the President shall determine from time to time to have general
19 application or which he may authorize to be published.

20
21 "the publication of any law, resolution or other official documents in
22 the ELECTRONIC AND PRINT VERSIONS of the Official Gazette shall
23 be prima facie evidence of its authority.

24
25 "Sec. 25. *Editing and publications.* – The Official Gazette, **BOTH ITS**
26 **ELECTRONIC AND PRINT VERSIONS**, shall be edited **BY THE**
27 **PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE** of
28 the Office of the President. **THE PAPER VERSION OR PRINTED**
29 **COPY SHALL BE** [and] published weekly in FILIPINO or in the
30 English language. It shall be sold and distributed by the National
31 Printing Office which shall promptly mail copies thereof to subscribers
32 free of postage."

1 Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Presidential
2 Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, in coordination with
3 concerned agencies, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations within sixty
4 (60) days from approval of this Act, for its effective implementation.

5 Sec. 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the
6 other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

7 Sec. 6. Repealing Clause. – All other laws, decrees, rules or issuances
8 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9 Sec. 7. Effectivity. - shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of
10 its publication in the online or printed edition of the Official gazette, or in at least
11 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,