



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4835

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEL MAR, REMULLA (G.) AND NIEVA, PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 1153

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 OR
INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE’ BY INCLUDING
WITHIN ITS COVERAGE JOURNALISTS FROM BROADCAST,
NEWS AGENCIES AND INTERNET PUBLICATIONS

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 53, as amended, is hereby
2 further amended to read as follows:

3 “Section 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the civil
4 and criminal laws, [the publisher, editor, columnist or duly
5 accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of
6 general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of any
7 news-report or information appearing in said publication which was

1 related in confidence to such publisher, editor or reporter unless the
2 court or a House or committee of Congress] **A DULY ACCREDITED**
3 **JOURNALIST OF ANY PRINT, BROADCAST, INTERNET, OR WIRE**
4 **SERVICE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING THE PUBLISHER, STATION**
5 **OWNER AND/OR MANAGER, BUREAU CHIEF, EDITOR, NEWS**
6 **EDITOR, WRITER OR REPORTER, CORRESPONDENT, OPINION**
7 **COLUMNIST OR COMMENTATOR, CARTOONIST, PHOTOGRAPHER,**
8 **OR OTHER PRACTITIONER INVOLVED IN THE WRITING, EDITING,**
9 **COMMENTING ON THE NEWS FOR MASS CIRCULATION CANNOT**
10 **BE COMPELLED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF ANY NEWS ITEM,**
11 **NEWS REPORT OR INFORMATION APPEARING OR BEING**
12 **REPORTED OR DISSEMINATED IN SAID MEDIA, WHICH WAS**
13 **RELATED IN CONFIDENCE TO SUCH JOURNALIST OR**
14 **PRACTITIONER UNLESS THE COURT OR THE HOUSE OF**
15 **REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE OR ANY OF ITS COMMITTEES**
16 finds that such revelation is demanded by the security of the State.”

17 *SEC. 2. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules
18 or regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
19 hereby repealed or modified.

20 *SEC. 3. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
21 its complete publication in at least two newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,