



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

Seventeenth Congress  
 First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24

Submitted by the COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION on 22 NOV 2016

RE: House Bill No. 684  
 Recommending its approval, without amendment, in consolidation with House Bill No. 1479

Sponsors: Representatives Antonio L. Tinio, Raul V. Del Mar, and Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Committee on Public Information to which were referred House Bill No. 684 introduced by Rep. Raul V. Del Mar, entitled:

**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**

and House Bill No. 1479 introduced by Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, entitled:

**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**

has considered the same and recommends the approval of House Bill No. 684 without amendment, in consolidation with House Bill No. 1479, and with Representatives Raul V. Del Mar, Harlin Neil J. Abayon III and Antonio L. Tinio as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

**ANTONIO L. TINIO**  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Public Information

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER**  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 QUEZON CITY

## FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 684  
(As approved by the Committee)

### 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

Introduced by: Reps. Raul V. Del Mar, Harlin Neil J. Abayon III and Antonio L. Tinio

*Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Committee Chairperson: REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO*

#### OBJECTIVE:

- To uphold the freedom of speech and expression by expanding the coverage of the protection of the law of the right of media practitioners to refuse to reveal the source of any news item, report or information

#### KEY PROVISIONS:

- Includes journalists and practitioners from the broadcast media, news agencies, and wire service organizations within the coverage of Republic Act No. 53, as amended, which provides that a media practitioner has the right to refuse to reveal the source of a news item, report or information which was revealed in confidence; and
- Extends the protection to the publisher, station owner and/or manager, bureau chief, editor, news editor, writer or reporter, correspondent, opinion columnist or commentator, cartoonist, photographer, or any practitioner involved in the gathering, writing, editing of and commenting on the news; and
- Requires that the protection shall only be accorded to a legitimate practitioner of an accredited media organization or entity

#### RELATED LAW:

- Republic Act No. 53, as amended