

Technology and Developments in Copyright Law: Proposed Amendments to the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines

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The Author provides an overview of the state of Intellectual Property protection in the Philippines by examining the existing Intellectual Property legislation — namely, Republic Act No. 8293, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines. Some of the concerns with regard to the protection of Intellectual Property in the Philippines are presented despite the existence of other legislation to support the said Code such as the Anti-Camcording Act of 2009, the Optical Media Act, and the Internet in the E-Commerce Act of 2000. The Author recognizes that while some action has been taken by the legislature to protect Intellectual Property, much remains to be done.

Given these concerns, a number of amendments to existing legislation have been proposed both in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Author examines these proposals and opines that through such proposed amendments, the Philippines takes a strong stand against copyright infringement. This is because the proposed amendments reinforce protections available, stiffen penalties, and provide more remedies to copyright holders whose intellectual property rights have been violated.

The Author however provides a caveat — that an appropriate balance must be struck between a hardline stance on copyright infringement and acceptable fair use practices.