

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1052 Session of
1989

INTRODUCED BY DORR, HALUSKA, ROBINSON, VROON, TRELLO, NOYE,
McVERRY, MORRIS, MICOZZIE, BARLEY, GEIST, SEMMEL, PHILLIPS,
GODSHALL, MERRY, SAURMAN, PERZEL, BURD, BUNT AND
E. Z. TAYLOR, APRIL 5, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 5, 1989

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for
3 confidential communications to news reporters.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 5942 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 5942. Confidential communications to news reporters.

9 (a) General rule.--No person engaged on, connected with, or
10 employed by any newspaper of general circulation or any press
11 association or any radio or television station, or any magazine
12 of general circulation, for the purpose of gathering, procuring,
13 compiling, editing or publishing news, shall be required to
14 disclose the source of any information procured or obtained by
15 such person, in any legal proceeding, trial or investigation
16 before any government unit.

17 (b) Exception.--The provisions of subsection (a) [insofar]

1 shall not apply:

2 (1) Insofar as they relate to radio or television
3 stations [shall not apply] unless the radio or television
4 station maintains and keeps open for inspection, for a period
5 of at least one year from the date of the actual broadcast or
6 telecast, an exact recording, transcription, kinescopic film
7 or certified written transcript of the actual broadcast or
8 telecast.

9 (2) When the identity of the personal informant has been
10 published and the confidential information has been revealed.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.