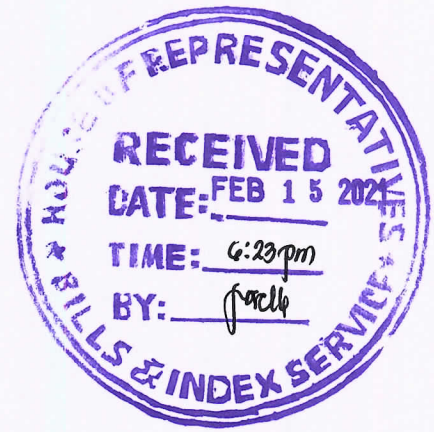


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1588**



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Introduced by Hon. Christopher V.P. de Venecia, Hon. Dan S. Fernandez, Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez, Hon. Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo, Hon. Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte, Hon. Lianda B. Bolilia, Hon. Alfred D. Vargas, Hon. Cristal L. Bagatsing, Hon. Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Hon. Kristine Singson-Meehan, Hon. Ronnie L. Ong, Hon. Strike B. Revilla, Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Hon. Angelica Natasha Co, Hon. Alfred C. Delos Santos, Hon. Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Hon. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Hon. Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Hon. Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, Hon. Lorenz R. Defensor, Hon. Vilma Santos-Recto, Hon. Loren Legarda, Hon. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Hon. Victor A. Yap, Hon. Ann K. Hofer, Hon. Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay, Hon. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda, Hon. Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Hon. Ruffy B. Biazon

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**A RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREATIVE INDUSTRY AND PERFORMING ARTS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CASES OF ONLINE PIRACY DURING THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL OF 2020**

**WHEREAS**, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Annual Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) was organized as a digital event for the year 2020, showcasing entry THE YEAR'S films through the on-demand online platform UPSTREAM from December 25, 2020 to January 7, 2021;

**WHEREAS**, as of January 1, 2021, the total revenues generated through ticket sales of the ten entries in the MMFF reached only 19 Million Pesos<sup>1</sup>, a meager 1.9% of the revenue generated in 2019 of over 995 Million Pesos;<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_entertainment/mmff-viewers-avoided-drama-films/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_entertainment/mmff-viewers-avoided-drama-films/)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/entertainment/box-office-gross-earnings-mmff-2019>

**WHEREAS**, a joint investigation conducted by UPSTREAM and the Optical Media Board (OMB) showed that unscrupulous individuals have been offering pirated MMFF 2020 films online for a fee of P10.00 per movie, a fraction of the legitimate and official ticket prices of P250.00 per ticket;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the said investigation, the OMB filed charges against at least 15 individuals who engaged in the piracy of MMFF movies for violations of Republic Act No. 8293, or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, as amended, and Republic Act No. 9239 or the Optical Media Act of 2003;

**WHEREAS**, under the penal provisions of the aforementioned laws, the following acts are punished by imprisonment of at least 30 days and as many as nine years and 30 days at most, and by fines ranging from as low as P25,000 to as high as P1,500,000: (i) infringing on intellectual property rights or aiding or abetting such infringement,<sup>4</sup> (ii) causing the mastering, manufacture or replication of any intellectual property in optical media intended for commercial profit or pecuniary gain without authority or consent of the owner thereof,<sup>5</sup> (iii) knowingly possessing items of the same content or title, produced in violation of the Act and used for purpose of sale, rental, distribution, or any other commercial purpose with intent to profit, and iv) engaging in the sale, rental, distribution, importation, exportation of, or any other commercial activity involving optical media that are in violation of the Act;<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, despite the stiff penalties already imposed by law, opportunistic elements in society continue to prey on original content created and produced by others by selling and distributing them through unauthorized channels;

**WHEREAS**, as of January 5, 2021, four persons were taken into custody by agents of the OMB in separate operations in Manila City and Quezon City;

**WHEREAS**, while commendable are the swift actions taken by the OMB, there remains a need for the State to afford greater protection to the film sector, among other sectors in the creative industry, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which has effectively taken away the livelihood of many stakeholders in the industry;

**WHEREAS**, in the pivot of creative industries towards the utilization of digital platforms and technologies not only as a mitigating mechanism in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but also in transitioning to the digital economy in light of the so-called "4th Industrial Revolution" (4IR), the State should afford greater

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1882831/Davao/Lifestyle/UPSTREAM-upbeat-with-MMFF-tie-up-gears-up-for-2021>

<sup>4</sup> Section 217, R.A. No. 8293, as amended

<sup>5</sup> Section 19 (a), R.A. No. 9239

<sup>6</sup> Section 19 (c), R.A. No. 9239

protection to intellectual property rights to deter piracy and othe related crimes in the future;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts and other appropriate committees of the House of Representative conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported cases of online piracy during the Metro Manila Film Festival of 2020, with the objective of strengthening the protection afforded to intellectual property rights.


ADOPTED,

  
HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE  
VENECIA

  
HON. DAN S. FERNANDEZ

  
HON. RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

  
HON. MA. LOURDES T. ARROYO

  
HON. MARLYN "LEN" B. ALONTE

  
HON. LIANDA B. BOLILIA

  
HON. ALFRED D. VARGAS

  
HON. CRISTALL L. BAGATSING

  
HON. AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN

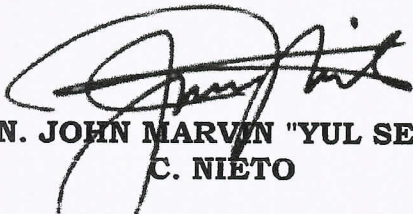
  
HON. KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN



HON. RONNEL L. ONG



HON. STRIKE B. REVILLA



HON. JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO"  
C. NIETO



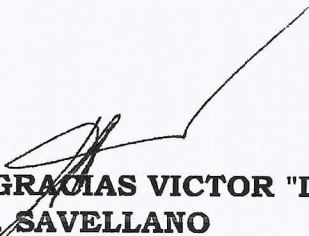
HON. ANGELICA NATASHA CO



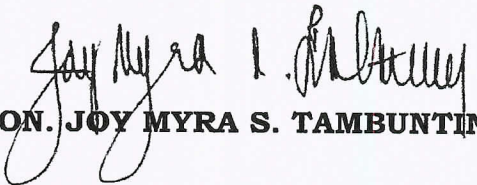
HON. ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS



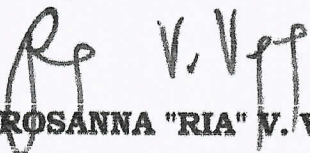
HON. EDWARD VERA PEREZ MACEDA



HON. DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV"  
B. SAVELLANO



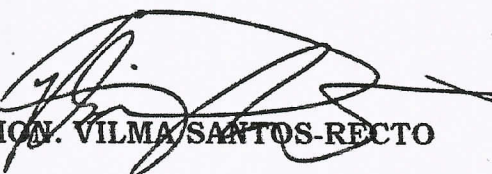
HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING



HON. ROSANNA "RIA" V. VERGARA



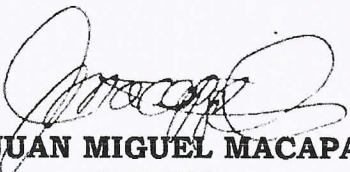
HON. LORENZ R. DEFENSOR



HON. VILMA SANTOS-RECTO



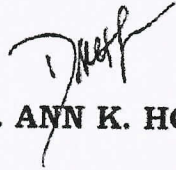
HON. LOREN LEGARDA



HON. JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL  
ARROYO



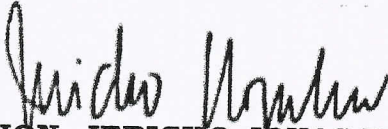
HON. VICTOR A. YAP




**HON. ANN K. HOFER**



**HON. JESUS "BONG" C. SUNTAY**



**HON. JERICO JONAS B.  
NOGRALES**



**HON. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**



**HON. FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES**



**HON. ROZZANO RUFINO BLAZON**