

Legislature consider extending protection to a single or married man as well. It is believed that this section, in the present form, tends to discriminate against men who are not protected in cases where their chastity is subjected to slanderous words. The revision should be predicated upon notion of fair play and equal protection without sex discrimination in law as provided by Art. 46 of the Declaration of Rights.

SEC. 3-502. ACTION BY SINGLE OR MARRIED WOMAN OR HUSBAND.

(A) ACTION BY EITHER SINGLE OR MARRIED WOMAN.

A SINGLE OR MARRIED WOMAN WHOSE CHARACTER OR REPUTATION FOR CHASTITY IS DEFAMED BY ANY PERSON MAY MAINTAIN AN ACTION AGAINST THAT PERSON.

(B) ACTION BY HUSBAND.

THE HUSBAND MAY MAINTAIN AN ACTION OF SLANDER AGAINST ANY PERSON FOR WORDS SPOKEN FALSELY AND MALICIOUSLY ABOUT HIS WIFE FOR HER CHARACTER OR REPUTATION FOR CHASTITY BEFORE OR DURING THE MARRIAGE.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived from Art. 88, §§ 2 and 4. Subsection (a) contains provisions which presently appear in Art. 88, §2. Although Art. 45, §5 and Rule 204 allow a married woman to sue in her own name, the provisions are retained as complementary to the provisions of subsection (b).

SEC. 3-503. LIABILITY OF BROADCASTING STATIONS FOR DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE AS TO OPPONENT.

AN OWNER, LICENSEE, OR OPERATOR OF A TELEVISION OR RADIO STATION OR NETWORK OF STATIONS, AND HIS AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES ARE NOT LIABLE FOR A DEFAMATORY STATEMENT PUBLISHED OR UTTERED OVER THE FACILITIES OF THE STATION OR NETWORK OF STATIONS BY A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE AS TO HIS OPPONENTS FOR THE OFFICE HE SEEKS, IF THE PUBLICATION OR UTTERANCE CANNOT BE CENSORED BY THE OWNER, LICENSEE, OR OPERATOR UNDER ANY REGULATION OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OR A FEDERAL STATUTE.