

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 561

Introduced by Hon. ROBERTO C. CAJES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The number of children born to unmarried couples below eighteen (18) years of age has dramatically increased. With the implementation of the Family Code, the marrying age of an individual has been raised to eighteen (18) years old. Age impediment has prevented adolescent men and women from legitimizing their union and that of their children before they reach 18 years of age.

Children born under these circumstances suffer the agony of having illegitimate status even after their parents eventually enter into a contract of marriage and are bound to remain illegitimate, unless, they are legally adopted by their natural parents.

Thus, the age below eighteen (18) years has become an impediment effectively denying legitimation of children born to parents below eighteen years of age who subsequently contract a valid marriage upon reaching legal age, as provided for under Article 178 of the Family Code of the Philippines. The only other means for legitimation would be through a judicial process that would be tedious, expensive and time consuming.

In order therefore to directly benefit the numerous persons adversely affected by this oversight, it is proposed that the subject provision be accordingly amended so that the impediment of age is removed and becomes rather the exception to the rule on legitimation.

For a more responsive government service, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROBERTO C. CAJES

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 561

Introduced by Hon. **ROBERTO C. CAJES**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEGITIMATION OF CHILDREN BORN TO
PARENTS BELOW MARRYING AGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE
FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 SECTION 1. Article 177 of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family
2 Code of the Philippines, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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4 " ART. 177. Only children conceived and born outside of wedlock parents who, at the
5 time of the conception of the former, were not disqualified by any impediment to marry
6 each other may be legitimated: **PROVIDED, THAT THOSE CONCEIVED AND**
7 **BORN TO PARENTS UNDER THE AGE MAJORITY MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR**
8 **LEGITIMATION."**

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10 SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
11 proclamations and/or administrative regulations, which are inconsistent with the
12 provisions of this Act, are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed
13 accordingly.
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1 SECTION 3. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of national
3 circulation.

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5 Approved,

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