

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

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session**

House Bill No. 4796



Introduced by **HON. IGNACIO T. ARROYO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 12, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution".

Due to unavoidable incidents of children born out of wedlock to parents who are disqualified by law to marry by reason of minority, illegitimacy has become prevalent in this country nowadays.

The stigma of being branded as an illegitimate child will only cast shame and dishonor, instead of confidence and self-esteem, to the person and in the young mind of a child who has nothing to do with the mistakes committed by the parents.

For this reason, this august body should enact laws that will help in protecting hapless children from the sins of the past of their parents.

A fortiori, the State is mandated to recognize the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation.

In fine, the amendment of a proviso of the Family Code is earnestly sought to uphold the rights and dignity of every Filipino child that will be affected by the proposed bill.


IGNACIO T. ARROYO


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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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

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

“Article 177. Only children conceived and born outside of wedlock [of]
TO parents who, at the time of the conception of the former, were not
disqualified by any impediment to marry each other may be legitimated [.]
BY THE PARENTS’ VALID SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE.

HOWEVER, CHILDREN CONCEIVED AND BORN OF
WEDLOCK TO PARENTS BELOW MARRYING AGE AND NOT
SUFFERING FROM ANY OTHER IMPEDIMENT MAY ALSO BE

LEGITIMATED BY THE LATTERS' VALID SUBSEQUENT
MARRIAGE, WITHOUT HAVING TO COMPLY WITH ARTICLE 40
OF THE FAMILY CODE.

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 3. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.