

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3724

Introduced by Representative Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica
4th District, Bulacan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 14 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states: "The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men."

However, this fundamental equality before the law between men and women is proved inutile because of certain provisions of our laws which give preference to men over women. In particular, Article 14 of the Family Code requires for the issuance of a marriage license for marrying parties between the ages 18 to 21 the consent of the father first before that of the mother. The law obviously favors one gender over the other. The provision therefore must be corrected by way of legislative amendment.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3724

Introduced by Representative Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica
4th District, Bulacan

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RIGHTS BY REMOVING PREFERENCE OF
THE FATHER IN THE GIVING OF CONSENT FOR PURPOSES OF SECURING A
MARRIAGE LICENSE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 14 OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

SECTION 1. Article 14 of Executive Order No. 209 is hereby amended as follows:

Art. 14. In case either or both of the contracting parties, not having been emancipated by a previous marriage, are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one, they shall, in addition to the requirements of the preceding articles, exhibit to the local civil registrar, the consent to their marriage of their father[,] **OR** mother, surviving parent or guardian, or persons having legal charge of them, in the order mentioned. Such consent shall be manifested in writing by the interested party, who personally appears before the proper local civil registrar, or in the form of an affidavit made in the presence of two witnesses and attested before any official authorized by law to administer oaths. The personal manifestation shall be recorded in both applications for marriage license, and the affidavit, if one is executed instead, shall be attached to said applications.

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act, or any part thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances, and enactments or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its complete publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,