



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **361**



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
AMENDING THE GROUNDS FOR LEGAL SEPARATION UNDER ARTICLE 55
OF THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 12 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to “protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution.” In addition, Article XV, Section 3 mandates the State to defend “The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development.”

As highlighted by the Philippine Commission on Women, according to the 2022 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 17.5% of Filipino women aged 15-49 years old have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from intimate partners. In 2021, there 8,399 cases of physical violence, 1,791 rape cases, and 1,505 acts of lasciviousness, according to official data.

In addition, the PSA’s 2024 Fact Sheet on Women and Men in the Philippines reveals the continued vulnerability of child abuse. The DSWD also recorded more than 2000 cases of child abuse in 2023.

This reflects an urgent call to strengthen legal mechanisms for protecting individuals and children from violence within the family. This proposed amendment seeks to include physical and/or sexual violence or abusive conduct as grounds for legal separation. This aims to empower survivors with timely legal remedies and reinforce the State's commitment to human dignity and protection under the law.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CRISPIN D. REMULLA', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CRISPIN DIEGO “PING” D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 55 of the Family Code of the Philippines is hereby amended to
2 read as follows:

3 “Article 55. A petition for legal separation may be filed on
4 any of the following grounds;

5 “(1) [Repeated] physical **AND/OR SEXUAL** violence, or
6 [grossly] **ABUSIVE CONDUCT** directed against the petitioner, a
7 common child, or a child of the petitioner;

8 “x x x.”

9 **SEC. 2. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions
10 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or
11 modified accordingly.

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

Approved,