



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2256

Introduced by **Representative MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The *reserva troncal* is a legal concept rooted in Article 891 of the Civil Code of the Philippines. It obliges an ascendant (such as a parent or grandparent) who inherits property from a descendant (such as a child or grandchild) — when that property was originally acquired by the descendant from another ascendant or sibling — to “reserve” the property for relatives within the third degree of consanguinity in the same line from which the property originated. While it is true that this doctrine was created to preserve family wealth within a specific bloodline, the same has long been criticized for its complexity, outdatedness, and potential to create more legal disputes than it resolves.

In modern times, the principle of *reserva troncal* has proven to be both confusing and impractical. It creates uncertainty in property transmission and significantly delays the settlement of estates. Heirs are often required to trace the origin of property through multiple generations and determine if any collateral relatives from the “line” are still alive, which results in complicated litigation, unnecessary legal costs, and emotional strain on families already burdened by grief.

This bill seeks to abolish the outdated principle of *reserva troncal* by repealing Article 891 of the Civil Code. Doing so would eliminate a legal anomaly that has little relevance in contemporary succession practice and remove a source of legal ambiguity and delay in estate administration. By simplifying the rules on inheritance and aligning our civil law with modern realities and needs, this legislative measure promotes clarity, fairness, and efficiency in the distribution of estates.

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

