

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3448



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Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,**  
**HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and**  
**HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Marriage should provide safety and mutual respect, but sadly, for many Filipinos, it becomes a place of harm instead of refuge. At present, the Family Code allows legal separation only if the violence is “repeated” or if the abusive conduct is “gross.” These requirements create a dangerous delay, forcing someone to endure multiple acts of harm before the law acknowledges their right to separate. Such a standard ignores the painful truth that even one incident of violence or abuse can cause deep and lasting damage, both physically and emotionally.

Additionally, the existing law does not clearly recognize sexual violence as a valid ground for legal separation. In reality, sexual abuse within marriage is a serious and often hidden form of violence, affecting not just women but also men and children. Leaving this out denies survivors proper legal protection and support.

Hence, this bill seeks to correct those gaps by removing the qualifier “repeated” and explicitly including sexual violence as a ground for separation.

By doing so, we affirm that a single act of violence is already one too many and should be enough to justify legal action.

This reform also echoes our international obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which urges states to strengthen legal safeguards against gender-based violence.

In view of this foregoing, the swift approval of this bill is respectfully urged.



**RAMON JOZO B. REVILLA III**



**LANI MERCADO-REVILLA**



**BRYAN B. REVILLA**

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

*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  
2 amended to read as follows:

3               "Article 55. A petition for legal separation may be filed on any  
4 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  
10 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby  
11 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

*Approved,*