



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7670



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
REPEALING ARTICLE 266-C OF ACT NO. 3815, ALSO KNOWN AS THE
REVISED PENAL CODE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2023, the World Health Organization reported that nearly 1 in 3 women or about 840 million globally aged 15 years old above have experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetuated by their intimate partner¹. In Philippines, the National Demographic and Health Survey in 2017 revealed that 1 in 4 women have experienced spousal violence, among which is sexual abuse². As per the Philippine National Police (PNP), the number of reported rape cases increased from 832 in 2011 to 2,056 in 2021. This amounts to 11,855 cases between 2017 and 2021. In 2023, there were 2,634 cases alone. The actual number is expected to be much higher due to underreporting³. The persisting prevalence of sexual violence against women, particularly within the context of marriage or intimate relationships, underscores the

¹ World Health Organization (2025). Lifetime toll: 840 million women faced partner or sexual violence. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-11-2025-lifetime-toll--840-million-women-faced-partner-or-sexual-violence>

² Philippine Statistics Authority (2018). One in four women have ever experienced spousal violence. <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/national-demographic-health-survey/node/129908>

³ Philippine Statistic Authority (2025). Violence Against Women. <https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/phdsd/2025-Fact-Sheet-per-sector-Violence-Against-Women.pdf>

urgent need to reassess and strengthen the legal framework intended to protect women's rights and welfare.

Article 266-C of the Revised Penal Code states that the subsequent marriage and the forgiveness given by the wife to her husband shall extinguish criminal liability. This provision has been widely assailed as being inimical to international human rights norms, as it embodies an outdated legal outlook that views rape as a private crime, having its roots in honor or marriage, rather than as a serious crime against liberty, the integrity of the body, and human dignity. Furthermore, this deflects attention from the culpability of the offender and makes the prosecution of the crime dependent on the will or circumstances of the survivor. This perpetuates detrimental stereotypes, condones rape within marriage, and is inimical to the State's obligation to prosecute crimes that are crimes against society in general.

In furtherance of framing the crime of rape as central inquiry of consent, and to establish survivor-centered and rights-based law, this bill seeks to repeal Article 266-C of Revised Penal Code. This measure likewise strengthens our alignment with international human rights standards and affirms the State's obligation to uphold the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

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



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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

SECTION 1. Article 266-C of the Revised Penal Code is hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,