

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. NO. 1658

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING GENDER EQUALITY BY AMENDING ARTICLE
14 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY
CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines, which came into effect on August 3, 1988, introduced reforms in Philippine law on family relations that, among others, advocated the inequality between men and women. Under the Family Code, women were not subservient to men, and became an equal partner in various family matters concerning, among others, the community property and parental authority. However, there remain provisions in the Family Code which unduly prejudices women.

One such provision is Article 14 of the Family Code. Article 14 provides that marital consent of the father to the marriage of a child between the age of eighteen (18) and twenty-one (21) is preferred over the consent of the mother, and states:

“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, mother, surviving parent or guardian, or persons having legal charge of them, in 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.”

There is no rational explanation for the preference for paternal marital consent. The Family Code itself recognizes that, save for certain instances, men and women, as regards their children, are partners of equal status and thus exercise joint parental authority.

This bill proposes to eliminate vestige of gender insensitive provisions of the Family Code, and strengthen the equality of men and women, particularly in their family relations.

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



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 14 of Executive Order No. 209, as amended, otherwise known as
2 the Family Code, is hereby further amended to read as follows:
3

4 “Art. 14. In case either or both of the contracting parties, not having been
5 emancipated by a previous marriage, are between the ages of eighteen and
6 twenty-one, they shall, in addition to the requirements of the preceding articles,
7 exhibit to the local civil registrar, the consent to their marriage of ~~[their father,~~
8 ~~mother, surviving parent]~~ EITHER PARENT, ~~[or]~~ THE guardian, or persons
9 having legal charge of them, in the order mentioned. Such consent shall be
10 manifested in writing by the interested party, who personally appears before the
11 proper local civil registrar, or in the form of an affidavit made in the presence of
12 two witnesses and attested before any official authorized by law to administer
13 oaths. The personal manifestation shall be recorded in both applications for
14 marriage license, and the affidavit, if one is executed instead, shall be attached
15 to said applications.”
16

17 **SECTION 2. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other
18 issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
19 or modified accordingly.
20

21 **SECTION 3. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.
23

24 *Approved,*