



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6779

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARCIA (G.), ROMUALDEZ, CATAMCO, DE
JESUS, MANALO, YAP (A.), BROSAS, ZARATE, TINIO AND
CASILAO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 533

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CHURCH ANNULMENT DECREE

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

1 SECTION 1. Whenever a marriage, duly and legally
2 solemnized by a priest, minister, rabbi or presiding elder of any
3 church or religious sect in the Philippines is subsequently annulled,
4 dissolved or declared a nullity in a final judgment or decree in
5 accordance with the canons or precepts of the church or religious
6 sect, the said annulment, dissolution or declaration of nullity shall
7 have the same effect as a decree of annulment, dissolution or
8 declaration of nullity issued by a competent court.

9 SEC. 2. The status of children of marriages subject of the
10 church annulment decree shall be determined in accordance with
11 the provisions of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the
12 "Family Code of the Philippines". In case the ground for the church
13 annulment decree is not similar to any of the grounds provided in

1 the Family Code of the Philippines, their common children born or
2 conceived before the issuance of the church annulment decree shall
3 be considered legitimate.

4 SEC. 3. The liquidation, partition and distribution of the
5 properties of the spouses, the custody and support of the common
6 children, and the delivery of their presumptive legitimes shall be
7 agreed upon by the spouses, and embodied in a public document. In
8 case no agreement is met, the provisions of the Family Code of the
9 Philippines shall be in force.

10 SEC. 4. The church annulment decree shall be recorded in the
11 appropriate civil registries together with the agreement of the
12 spouses required in the preceding section within thirty (30) days
13 from the issuance of the church annulment decree, subject to the
14 conditions that may be imposed by the church or religious sect.

15 SEC. 5. Without prejudice to the conditions set forth by the
16 church or religious sect, either of the former spouses may marry
17 again after complying with the requirements of the preceding
18 paragraph and Article 52 of the Family Code of the Philippines;
19 otherwise, the subsequent marriage shall be null and void.

20 In securing a marriage license, the spouse involved must
21 present a certified true copy of the church annulment decree
22 registered with the appropriate civil registry.

23 SEC. 6. If any part or provision of this Act is held
24 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which
25 are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

26 SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
27 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the

1 provisions of this Act are deemed amended, repealed or modified
2 accordingly.

3 SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
4 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general
5 circulation.

Approved,

O