

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Fourteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1135



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Introduced by GABRIELA Women's Party List  
Representative Liza Largoza-Maza

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#### Explanatory Note

Article 177 of the Family Code (Executive Order No. 209, as amended) provides that only children conceived and born outside of wedlock of parents who, at the time of the conception of the form, were not disqualified by any impediment to marry each other, may be legitimated.

This may be interpreted to mean that a child who was born outside of wedlock may never be legitimated, if at the time of his/her conception, his/her parents were disqualified by any impediment to marry each other. The child may therefore carry an illegitimate status all his/her life.

This situation is unjust to the child.

For example, a child born to a couple, one or both of whom is/are below eighteen years of age, will never have the opportunity to be legitimated under Articles 177-182 of the Family Code.

If the parents who were earlier disqualified to marry each other, but are later on allowed under the law to marry, there is no reason why their child born out of wedlock should not be legitimated by their marriage when the impediment ceases to exist.

This bill seeks to address such a situation.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA

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AN ACT  
AMENDING ARTICLE 177 OF EXECUTIVE ACT NO. 209, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 227

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

**SECTION 1.** Article 177 of the Republic Act No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code, is hereby amended as follows:

*Article 177. ~~Only Children conceived and born outside of wedlock of parents who, at the time of the conception of the former, were not disqualified by any impediment to marry each other may be legitimated.~~*

**SECTION 2. Separability Clause.** — If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other portions thereof.

**SECTION 3. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved:*