



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 533

Submitted by the Committee on Population and Family Relations on 11 DEC 2017
Re: House Bill No. 6779
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1629 and 3705
Sponsors: Representatives Sol Aragon, Gwendolyn F. Garcia and Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Population and Family Relations to which were referred House Bill No. 1629 introduced by Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia, entitled:

**“AN ACT
LEGALIZING CHURCH ANNULMENT OR DISSOLUTION OF CERTAIN
MARRIAGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

and House Bill No. 3705 introduced by Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, entitled:

**“AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CHURCH DECLARATION OF
NULLITY, ANNULMENT AND DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGES AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”.**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 6779, entitled:

**“AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CHURCH ANNULMENT
DECREE”**

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1629 and 3705 with Reps. Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez and Nancy A. Catamco as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


SOL ARAGONES
Chairperson
Committee on Population
and Family Relations

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY**



Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Republic of the Philippines

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Substitute Bill No. **6779**

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 1629 and 3705)

Introduced by Representatives GWENDOLYN F. GARCIA and YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

AN ACT

RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CHURCH ANNULMENT DECREE

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

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

SEC. 2. The status of children of marriages subject of the church annulment decree shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the "*Family Code of the Philippines.*" In case the ground for the church annulment decree is not similar to any of the grounds provided in the Family Code of the Philippines, their common children born or conceived before the issuance of the church annulment decree shall be considered legitimate.

SEC. 3. The liquidation, partition and distribution of the properties of the spouses, the custody and support of the common children, and the delivery of

1 their presumptive legitimes, shall be agreed upon by the spouses, and embodied
2 in a public document. In case no agreement is met, the provisions of the Family
3 Code of the Philippines shall be in force.

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

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

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

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

19 SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts
20 thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed
21 amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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

24 Approved,

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 6779

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CHURCH ANNULMENT DECREE

Introduced by: Reps. Gwendolyn F. Garcia and Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

Committee Chairperson : HON. SOL ARAGONES

OBJECTIVES:

- **To legally recognize the church annulment decrees**

KEY PROVISIONS:

- **Provides for the civil recognition of church annulment decrees**
- **Provides for the determination of the legal status of children of spouses who have acquired church annulment decrees**
- **Provides for the mode of liquidation, partition and distribution of properties of the spouses**
- **Provides for the proper custody and support of the common children of the spouses**
- **Provides for the mode of delivery of the presumptive legitime**
- **Provides that the church annulment decrees, together with the agreement of the spouses on the liquidation, partition, and distribution of properties of the spouses shall be recorded in the appropriate civil registry**
- **Provides that either of the spouses may remarry after complying with certain requirements and the provision of Article 52 of the Family Code of the Philippines**

RELATED LAW:

Executive Order No. 209