

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 502

Introduced by **HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to acknowledge a factual and existing marital condition that plagued not a few unions. Without dwelling on the deeper reasons behind the separation, this bill offers a remedy without opening a Pandora's box or a can of worms that are usually present during annulment proceedings.

Five years of actual separation would make the couples estrange enough that a possible reconciliation is nil. Besides, five years should have made the parties adjust and move on with their individual lives without further straining the relationship. Thus, they should be granted the best relief that they can have, annulment. This way, they can go on separate ways peacefully as no other reason is needed to justify the annulment thus avoid opening old wounds.

For this reason, the urgent approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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**AN ACT AMENDING TITLE I, CHAPTER 3, OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES,
PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL GROUND FOR ANNULMENT**

Section 1. Title I, Chapter 3 of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"TITLE I — MARRIAGE

"CHAPTER 3 — VOID AND VOIDABLE MARRIAGES

**"Art. 45 - A. A marriage may also be annulled if the parties
have been separated in fact for at least five years."**

Sec. 2. Effectivity clause. — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.