

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

1689
HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the few countries where age of sexual consent is below 12 years of age—which means rape cases involving minors are brought to court and the young victims must prove the abuse. Internationally, the average age of consent is 16 years of age. In court cases, children as young as 12 years of age are made to recount out loud their sexual abuse experiences and answer questions pertaining to their defilement. This is required of them in order for their case to be judged properly in court. But making the young retell their trauma can be unsympathetic of the welfare of the child being questioned.

This bill proposes to amend the provision of the Revised Penal Code to raise the minimum age of consent to determine statutory rape to below 16 years of age. It hopes to address the disparity in the treatment of those persons who are below 12 years old and those below 12 years but below 18 years of age.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1689

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
INCREASING THE AGE FOR DETERMINING STATUTORY RAPE TO PROVIDE
STRONGER PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN, AND AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, ALSO KNOWN AS THE REVISED
PENAL CODE

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

SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, Article 266-A (l) (d) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Article 266. –

A. *Rape, When and How Committed.* – Rape is committed:

1. By a man who shall have carnal knowledge of a woman under any of the following circumstances:

XXX XXX XXX

(d) When the offended party is under SIXTEEN (16) [twelve (12)] years of age or is demented, even though none of the circumstances mentioned above be present."

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orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,