

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )**



'22 JUL 12 AIO :57

**SENATE**  
**S.B. No. 341**

RECEIVED BY:

---

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

---

**AN ACT ALLOWING WOMEN TO REVERT TO THEIR MAIDEN SURNAME, ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR REVERSION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 14, Article II of the Constitution provides that the State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.

In accordance with the Constitution, this measure removes the difficult, costly, and unnecessary court processes that women have to endure in order to revert to their maiden name. This measure proposes the following:

- (1) In instances of legal separation, annulment or declaration of nullity of their marriage, the women's right to revert to her surname must be facilitated;
- (2) To provide for a procedure for a woman's choice to revert to her maiden name, the Office of the Civil Registrar, the Department of Justice, the Department of Finance, the Supreme Court and other concerned agencies will be empowered; and
- (3) To change or correct entries in the civil register without a judicial order by expanding the scope of the civil registrar's authority.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

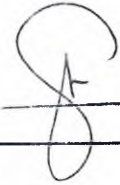
**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'22 JUL 12 A10 :57

SENATE  
S.B. No. 341

RECEIVED SA: \_\_\_\_\_



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

1 **AN ACT ALLOWING WOMEN TO REVERT TO THEIR MAIDEN**  
2 **SURNAME, ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR REVERSION AND**  
3 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

4  
5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*  
6 *Congress assembled:*

7  
8 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Reversion to Maiden Name*  
9 *Act.*"

10  
11 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State shall value the dignity and  
12 independence of women and guarantees full respect for their freedom of choice of  
13 surname. Hence, the State shall provide a method for reversion to maiden name to  
14 fully empower women to be truly independent in their social and economic affairs.

15  
16 SEC. 3. *Authority to Record a Reversion to Maiden Name.* - No entry in a civil  
17 register shall be changed or corrected without a judicial order, except as provided in  
18 this Act and under Republic Act No. 9048.

19  
20 SEC. 4. *Who May File the Petition and Where.* - A woman who is or was validly  
21 married may file a verified petition for reversion to her maiden name before the local  
22 civil registry office of the city or municipality where her record is kept.

23  
24 SEC. 5. *Grounds for Reversion to Maiden Name.* - The petition for reversion to  
25 maiden name may be allowed in any of the following cases: (1) After a marriage has  
26 been judicially declared null and void or after its annulment; (2) After a judicial  
27 declaration of legal separation: Provided, That there has been no manifestation of  
28 reconciliation filed with the court; (3) After a judicial declaration of separation of  
29 property: Provided, That there has been no subsequent decree reviving the old  
30 property regime between the spouses; (4) If the spouses stipulated in their marriage  
31 settlement that a regime of separation of properties shall govern their property  
32 relations; (5) If the petitioner has been de facto separated from or abandoned by her  
33 husband for a period of not less than ten (10) years; or (6) If the petitioner's husband  
34 may be presumed dead pursuant to the circumstances, periods and conditions set  
35 forth in the Civil Code of the Philippines and the Rules of Court.

1           SEC. 6. *Petitions for Declaration of Nullity, Annulment and Legal Separation.* -  
2 A prayer for reversion to one's maiden name may be included in the following  
3 petitions:

- 4  
5           (1) Petition for declaration of nullity of a marriage;  
6  
7           (2) Petition for annulment of a marriage;  
8  
9           (3) Petition for legal separation; and  
10  
11           (4) Petition for judicial declaration of separation of property.  
12

13           SEC. 7. *Responsible Agencies.* - The Civil Registrar, the Department of Justice,  
14 the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Supreme Court Administration  
15 shall, in coordination with such other concerned government agencies, issue the  
16 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.  
17

18           SEC. 8. *Funding.* - Such amounts necessary for the effective implementation of  
19 this Act shall be included in the general appropriations act of the year following this  
20 enactment.  
21

22           SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or section of this Act is held  
23 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions and sections not affected thereby shall  
24 remain in full force and effect.  
25

26           SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All executive orders, laws and department orders  
27 and parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
28 repealed or modified accordingly.  
29

30           SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
31 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
32 circulation.

Approved,