

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

7 JUL 24 1976

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1343

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

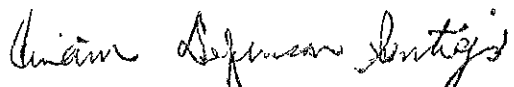

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XI, Section 14, mandates the State to ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. However, this provision is disregarded by the Penal Code, Article 337, which defines and penalizes qualified seduction. Under the present law, qualified seduction may only be committed against women.

Thus, this bill seeks to remove the gender bias as to who may be a victim of qualified seduction by penalizing acts of qualified seduction committed against men.

*This bill is a product of the public hearings conducted by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws during the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress.\**

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  


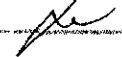
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\* This bill was re-filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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

7 JUL 24 1948

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1343

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1 AN ACT  
2 AMENDING ARTICLE 337 OF THE PENAL CODE, ELIMINATING GENDER BIAS  
3 IN QUALIFIED SEDUCTION AND INCREASING THE IMPOSABLE PENALTY

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

6 SECTION 1. Article 337 of the Penal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 "Article 337. Qualified Seduction—The seduction of a [virgin] PERSON  
8 over twelve (12) years and under eighteen (18) years of age, committed by any  
9 person in public authority, priest, home-servant, domestic, guardian, teacher,  
10 EMPLOYER, or any person who, in any capacity, shall be entrusted with the  
11 education or custody of the [woman] PERSON seduced, REGARDLESS OF  
12 WHETHER CONSENT WAS GIVEN shall be punished by *prison*  
13 *[correccional]* MAYOR in its [minimum and medium] MAXIMUM period[s].

14 The penalty [next higher in degree] *OF RECLUSION PERPETUA* shall be  
15 imposed upon any person who shall seduce his or her sibling, or descendant  
16 [whether or not she be a virgin or over eighteen years] REGARDLESS of age.

17 Under the provisions of this chapter, seduction is committed when the  
18 offender has carnal knowledge [of] OR COMMITS ACTS OF  
19 LASCIVIOUSNESS AGAINST any of the persons and under the circumstances  
20 described herein."

21 SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or  
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of the laws or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
23 valid and subsisting.

1           SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
3 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4           SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general publication.

6           Approved,