

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



23 MAR 30 P3 :40

**SENATE**  
**S.B. No. 2051**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHT OF MARRIED WOMEN TO RETAIN THEIR MAIDEN SURNAMES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 370 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NEW CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Explanatory Note

In accordance with Section 14, of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution of the Philippines, the State recognizes the role of women in nation-building and ensures the fundamental equality of both women and men.

The proposed measure proposes to amend Article 370 of Republic Act No. 386 where married women are given the choice to be able to retain their maiden name in addition to being able to retain their maiden name and add their husband's surname, keep their maiden first name and their husband's surname, or have their husband's full name but prefixing a word indicating she is his wife, like "Mrs."

In light of this, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

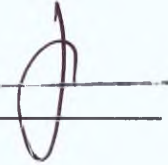
**Raffy T. Tulfo**

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

1           **Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Right to Maintain Maiden  
2 Name Act”.

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4           **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to value the  
5 independence of women and guarantee them full respect for their freedom of choice  
6 of surname. Therefore, the State shall provide a mechanism for women who wish to  
7 retain their maiden name.

8  
9           **Sec. 3. Surname of Married Woman.** – Article 370, Title XIII, Book III of  
10 the Republic Act No. 386, as amended, otherwise known as the New Civil Code of the  
11 Philippines, is hereby amended to read as follows: “Article 370. A married woman may  
12 use:

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14           ~~[(1) Her maiden first name and surname and add her husband’s~~  
15           ~~surname or~~

16           ~~(2) Her maiden first name and her husband’s surname or~~

17           ~~(3) Her husband’s full name, but prefixing a word indicating that she~~  
18           ~~is his wife, such as “Mrs.”]~~

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- (1) HER MAIDEN FIRST NAME AND SURNAME;
- (2) HER MAIDEN FIRST NAME AND SURNAME AND ADD HER HUSBAND'S NAME;
- (3) HER MAIDEN FIRST NAME AND HER HUSBAND'S SURNAME; OR
- (4) HER HUSBAND'S FULL NAME, BUT PREFIXING A WORD INDICATING THAT SHE IS HIS WIFE, SUCH AS "MRS".

**Sec. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**Sec. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,