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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 2576

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The internet is full of information. We can find information on any subject without to much trouble. Information on clothing, modeling, sports, TV, movies, address, and driving directions, just to name a few. With this large database of information come problems, because a dosage of good things will almost always come with a dosage of bad things.

Among the problems that come with these things are internet schemes, all with the intention of providing ways by which money can be made with the simple press of a button.

Along comes the mail-order brides. Women from Thailand and the Philippines are the most popular among Western men seeking an Asian wife.

Images of Thai woman portrayed on the sites are often accompanied by descriptions like "sweet" and "spoils and treats her husband like a king".

Filipinas are noted for their beauty, grace, charm and loyalty as well as being family-oriented, resourceful and devoted. Additional qualifications in the mail-order bride stakes are the Filipina's Christian faith and cultural compatibility.

As the growth of the internet has reached through to millions if not billions of people, this paved the way for the phenomenon of internet brides. We should consider this as another form of prostitution by which our women are auctioned off to the highest and most willing bidders to be turned into their wives, if they are lucky. But what if they are turned into slaves, or household help?

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought for the purpose of putting a stop to all avenues which make Filipino women an easy prey for mail-order bride schemes.


MANNY VILLAR

(b) For the manager or officer-in-charge or advertising manager of any newspaper, magazine, television or any newspaper, magazine, television or radio station, or other media INCLUDING INTERNET WEBSITES AND OTHER SCHEMES MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE WORLDWIDE WEB, or of an advertising agency, printing company or other similar entities, to knowingly allow or consent to, the acts prohibited in the preceding paragraph.”

SECTION 2. A new section is hereby added after Section 4 of R.A. No. 6955 as follows:

“SEC. 5.A. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA), THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION (DOTC), THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE ROLE OF FILIPINO WOMEN (NCRFW), AND AT LEAST THREE (3) REPRESENTATIVES FROM NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs), WHICH ARE ENGAGED IN ASSISTING VICTIMS OF MAIL-ORDER BRIDE OTHER SCHEMES, SHALL BE CHARGED WITH CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT AND SHALL FORMULATE ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.”

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* - If any part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,