

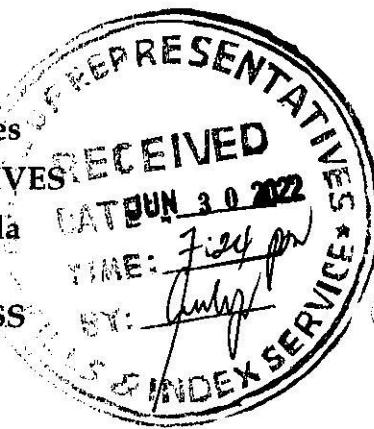
Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 611



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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARNOLFO "ARNIE" A. TEVES, JR

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING GHOSTING AS AN EMOTIONAL OFFENSE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the age of social media and in today's world, the realm of dating has changed exponentially compared to previous years. Now, couples primarily communicate using their cellular phones and in turn, use cellular phones as an avenue for meeting and dating.

Ghosting--- when someone cuts off all forms of communication can be mentally, physically, and emotionally exhausting to the "ghosted" person. Studies have shown that social rejection of any kind activates the same pain pathways in the brain as physical pain, meaning there's a biological link between rejection and pain. That goes for friends and partners, alike.<sup>1</sup>

Ghosting is a form of spite that develops feelings of rejection and neglect. Ghosting has adverse effects on the mental state of the one being ghosted and his or her emotional state is still adversely affected as he or she will be constantly thinking of the welfare or the unexplained reasons of the one who ghosted. The ambiguity with ghosting, is that there is no real closure between the parties concerned and as such, it can be likened to a form of emotional cruelty and should be punished as an emotional offense because of the trauma it causes to the "ghosted" party.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/22/smarter-living/why-people-ghost-and-how-to-get-over-it.html>. Adam Popescu. January 22, 2019.

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

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ARNOLFO "ARNIE" A. TEVES, JR.

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as "*An Act Declaring Ghosting As An Emotional Offense.*"

**SECTION 2. Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this act, the following terms are defined:

- (a) "Emotional abuse" - acts or omissions causing or likely to cause mental or emotional suffering of the victim such as but not limited to ridicule or humiliation, repeated verbal abuse and mental infidelity and could also be caused by "ghosting" for no apparent justifiable reason but solely to cause emotional distress to the victim.
- (b) "Ghosting"- a form of emotional abuse and happens once a person is engaged in a dating relationship with the opposite sex which affects the mental state of the victim.
- (c) "Dating relationship"- refers to a situation wherein the parties live as husband and wife without the benefit of marriage or are romantically involved over

time and on a continuing basis during the course of the relationship. A casual acquaintance or ordinary socialization between two individuals in a business or social context is not a dating relationship.

**SECTION 3. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional inoperative, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and in effect.

**SECTION 4. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the Act or the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause.** This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation whichever comes first.

*Approved,*