



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 637

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Gambling, by its nature, is inherently opposed to God's will and principles because its underpinning spirit or motivation is *love of money* – whether on the part of the gamblers or on the part of the gambling operators. Having said so, it will never get the blessing of God and is doomed to be shrouded with complications and curses. While earning money and accumulating legitimate wealth are not evil in themselves, the Holy Scriptures is explicitly against gambling because it is simply chasing after money at the expense of our lives or the lives of others. It is social disease which steals properties and fortunes, destroys family relations and decapitates the dignity of those who have succumb to its addiction.

Existing laws and jurisprudence affirm that any form of gambling is detrimental to the welfare of the people and prohibiting it as a way to repress an evil that undermines the social, moral, and economic growth of the nation is valid. However, as advancement in technology dawns, gambling also takes different platforms. Nowadays, gambling has gone online, and its reach and evil effects have gone unprecedented. The rate at which online gambling lures people into gambling addiction, pushes them into debt trap, causes them to commit crimes, enslaves them to poverty cycle and even leads to suicide has been very alarming recently. The liberal and unregulated access of both young ones and adults into online gambling activities facilitates and accelerates the wreaking of tis

havoc. Its digital nature makes it harder to regulate and more dangerous than traditional forms of gambling.

This bill seeks to prohibit and penalize online gambling. It criminalizes the placing, receiving, or transmitting of online bets, and imposes penalties on violators—including corporations and public officials who enable or promote such activities. It further repeals any existing laws or regulations that may be interpreted to authorize or regulate online gambling. Ultimately, the bill is a preventive step to protect Filipino families, uphold public morals, and address the social risks posed by online gambling.

With the foregoing, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. C. Villanueva', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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HOUSE BILL NO. 637

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AN ACT PROHIBITING ONLINE GAMBLING, PENALIZING THE PLACING OF WAGERS OR BETS THROUGH THE INTERNET OR ANY FORM OF ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

3
4 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Online
5 Gambling Act of 2025."
6

7 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to
8 promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity
9 and independence of the nation. Through policies that provide adequate
10 social services, promote full employment, and a commitment to create
11 economic opportunities, the State shall free the people from poverty.
12 Thus, the State shall adopt measures to eliminate and prohibit all forms
13 of online gambling activities as this will bring gambling to the very heart of
14 the family by allowing gambling to enter the family home. Online gambling
15 will influence the young minds and will send wrong values to the youth.
16

17 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the
18 following terms are hereby defined as follows:
19

20 a.) **"Internet"** refers to an international computer network of
21 interoperable packet switched data networks. It includes the

1 electronic medium in which online communication takes place.
2

3 a) **"Bet" or "Wager"** refers to taking or risking by any person of
4 something of value upon the outcome of a contest of others, a
5 sporting event, or a game subject to chance, upon an agreement or
6 understanding that the person or another person will receive
7 something of value in the event of a certain outcome.
8

9 b) **"Internet Gambling" or "Online Gambling"** refers to placing,
10 receiving, or otherwise knowingly transmitting a bet or wager by any
11 means which involves the use, at least in part, of the Internet.
12

13 **SEC. 4. Prohibition on Online Gambling and similar acts.** – Any
14 person who shall place, receive, or otherwise knowingly transmit a bet or
15 wager by any means which involves the use, at least in part, of the
16 internet, shall be punished by an imprisonment ranging from one (1)
17 month to six (6) months or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand
18 Pesos (Php 100,000.00) nor more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos
19 (Php 500,000.00) at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a
20 corporation or association, the maximum penalty of five (5) years and the
21 fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) shall be imposed
22 upon the President, Director, Manager or Managing partners thereof. If
23 the offender is a public officer or employee, or if a public officer or
24 employee promotes or encourages online gambling, the maximum
25 penalty prescribed for the offense shall be imposed and, in addition, he
26 shall be dismissed from the public service and perpetually disqualified
27 from holding any public office, to vote and to participate in any election.
28

29 **SEC. 5. Repeal of Authority to Regulate Online Gambling.** – All
30 laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, which are
31 interpreted to give legal authority to regulate any forms of online gambling
32 are hereby repealed.
33

34 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30)
35 days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of the
36 Interior and Local Government and the Secretary of the Department of
37 Justice shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective
38 implementation of this measure.
39

40 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
41 rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to, or inconsistent with this
42 Act are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.
43

1 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
2 its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general
3 circulation.

4
5 Approved,