



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1559



Introduced by Representative WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.

**AN ACT PROHIBITING ONLINE GAMBLING
IN THE PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent years, the proliferation of online gambling platforms in the Philippines has surged at an alarming rate. Enabled by widespread internet access, the ubiquity of smartphones, and the seamless integration of mobile payment systems, online gambling has become a deeply entrenched activity across all segments of society—regardless of age, economic status, or geography.

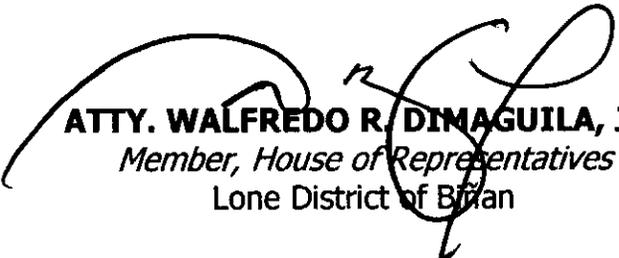
However, this rapid growth has come at a grave social cost. Unlike regulated land-based casinos with physical security, age checks, and controlled access, online gambling thrives in an unregulated and largely anonymous digital space. Minors are now frequently exposed to and participating in gambling through mobile apps, social media advertisements, and digital wallets. Families have fallen into debt due to impulsive betting, with breadwinners losing entire livelihoods in a matter of hours. Mental health professionals now report a rise in cases of gambling-related anxiety, depression, and even suicide ideation.

Furthermore, studies and anecdotal evidence have shown that the addictive nature of online gambling is far more severe than traditional forms. It allows continuous, round-the-clock engagement with no physical barriers, no accountability, and a constant feedback loop that fuels addiction. Worse, many online gambling platforms operate under the guise of legality through offshore licenses or front corporations, evading taxation and regulatory scrutiny.

In Filipino communities, the damage is tangible. Barangay officials have reported an increase in cases of youths stealing family money to place bets. Schools have identified students engaging in online cockfights or casino games during class hours. Parents are left powerless against platforms that exploit behavioral triggers and psychological vulnerabilities.

This bill seeks to put an end to these societal harms by **completely prohibiting online gambling in the Philippines**, regardless of licensing status or corporate affiliation. The measure will not only restore order and protect the nation's moral fiber but also allow the government to refocus its energies on education, employment, and economic recovery in the post-pandemic era.

The urgent passage of this bill is a moral and social imperative.



ATTY. WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.
Member, House of Representatives
Lone District of Bisan



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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** — This Act shall be known as the "*Online Gambling*
2 *Prohibition Act of 2025.*"

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** — It is the policy of the State to promote the
5 moral, psychological, and economic well-being of its citizens. In view of the increasing
6 and pervasive harm caused by online gambling—particularly among youth and low-
7 income families—the State shall prohibit all forms of online gambling activities,
8 advertisements, operations, and financial facilitation in the interest of public welfare.

9
10 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** — As used in this Act:

11

- 12 (a) *Online Gambling* refers to any gambling activity—including
13 betting, gaming, or wagering on games of chance or skill—
14 conducted through the internet, mobile applications, or any other
15 digital platform.
- 16
- 17 (b) *Operator* refers to any person, natural or juridical, including
18 corporations, partnerships, or other entities, that facilitates,
19 manages, provides infrastructure for, or profits from online
20 gambling services either directly or indirectly.
- 21
- 22 (c) *Advertisement* refers to any form of communication, publication,
23 or broadcast—whether visual, audio, print, or digital—that
24 promotes, markets, sponsors, or otherwise induces participation
25 in online gambling.
- 26
- 27 (d) *Digital Financial Service Provider* refers to mobile wallets,
28 payment gateways, financial technology companies, and digital
29 or electronic banking platforms that facilitate deposits, transfers,
30 or withdrawals related to online gambling.
- 31
- 32 (e) *Whistleblower* refers to any individual who voluntarily provides
33 truthful, credible, and original information regarding a violation
34 of this Act, which leads to a successful investigation or
35 prosecution.
- 36
- 37 (f) *Responsible Officers* refer to directors, trustees, partners,
38 managers, and other individuals in positions of authority in a
39 juridical entity who had actual knowledge of, participated in, or
40 failed to prevent the commission of any act prohibited under this
41 Act.
- 42
- 43 (g) *Player* refers to any person who participates in online gambling
44 activities by directly engaging in a game, match, or any other
45 gambling format whether through skill or chance.

46 (h) *Bettor* refers to any person who places money, stakes, or items
47 of value on the outcome of an event, game, or activity facilitated
48 through online gambling platforms, regardless of whether the
49 outcome depends on skill or chance. refers to directors, trustees,
50 partners, managers, and other individuals in positions of
51 authority in a juridical entity who had actual knowledge of,
52 participated in, or failed to prevent the commission of any act
53 prohibited under this Act.

54

55 **SEC. 4. *Prohibited Acts.*** — The following acts are hereby declared unlawful:

56

57 (a) Operating, maintaining, or offering online gambling platforms or
58 services within or accessible in the Philippines;

59

60 (b) Advertising, promoting, or marketing any online gambling service
61 through any media platform, including digital, print, and broadcast
62 channels;

63

64 (c) Facilitating payments, deposits, or withdrawals related to online
65 gambling through digital financial platforms;

66

67 (d) Participating in online gambling activities, whether as a player,
68 bettor, or facilitator.

69

70 **SEC. 5. *Penalties.*** —

71

72 (a) Any person found guilty of violating Section 4(a) shall suffer
73 imprisonment of up to twelve (12) years and a fine of up to Ten
74 Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the
75 court.

76

77 (b) Any media platform, publisher, or advertising entity that violates
78 Section 4(b) shall be fined not less than Two Million Pesos (Php
79 2,000,000.00) and face suspension of business operations.

80
81 (c) Any digital financial service provider that violates Section 4(c) shall
82 be subject to administrative sanctions by the Bangko Sentral ng
83 Pilipinas (BSP), including license revocation.

84
85 (d) Any individual who violates Section 4(d) shall undergo mandatory
86 rehabilitation and community service, without prejudice to other
87 penalties under existing laws.

88
89 (e) If the offender is a corporation, partnership, or juridical entity, the
90 penalty shall be imposed upon its responsible officers, directors,
91 or managing partners who knowingly authorized, allowed, or
92 tolerated the commission of the offense. In addition, the entity
93 may face:

94
95 (1) Revocation of its license to operate;

96
97 (2) Permanent ban from conducting business in the Philippines;

98
99 (3) Forfeiture of assets used in or derived from the prohibited
100 activity;

101
102 (4) Blacklisting from all government contracts and franchises.

103
104 The imposition of penalties under this section shall be without prejudice to the
105 civil, criminal, or administrative liability of the offender under other existing laws, rules,
106 or regulations.

107

108 **SEC. 6. Enforcement.** — The Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau
109 of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of
110 Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall coordinate to identify,
111 block, and take down online gambling platforms. PAGCOR and BSP shall assist in
112 enforcing penalties and monitoring financial compliance.

113

114 To enhance enforcement and public cooperation, a confidential whistleblower
115 mechanism shall be established under the DOJ, enabling individuals to report
116 violations of this Act anonymously. Whistleblowers who provide substantial leads that
117 result in a conviction shall be entitled to protective measures and may be granted
118 incentives pursuant to existing laws.

119

120 Digital platforms, telecommunications providers, and financial institutions shall
121 be required to report any suspicious gambling-related activity to the appropriate
122 authorities and cooperate in investigations as necessary. The Department of Justice
123 (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police (PNP), and
124 the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall
125 coordinate to identify, block, and take down online gambling platforms. PAGCOR and
126 BSP shall assist in enforcing penalties and monitoring financial compliance.

127

128 **SEC. 7. Transition Period.** — All existing online gambling operators shall wind
129 down operations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. Failure to do so
130 shall result in immediate criminal prosecution and forfeiture of assets.

131

132 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within sixty (60) days
133 from the effectivity of this Act, the DOJ, in coordination with DICT, BSP, PAGCOR, and
134 other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and
135 regulations (IRR).

136

137 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
138 or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
139 force and effect.

140 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, and
141 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

142

143 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
144 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.