

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 2948



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INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

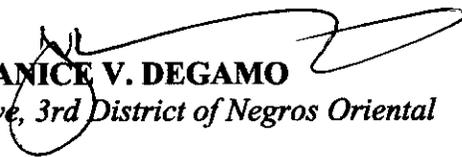
In recent years, the rapid proliferation of digital gambling platforms, accessible from smartphones and tablets, has made gambling more convenient than ever. While these platforms have generated significant revenue for the country, they have also increased the risk of problem gambling and addiction, particularly among vulnerable individuals with easy access and limited safeguards.

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) currently offers a self-exclusion program, allowing individuals to voluntarily ban themselves from entering gaming establishments or using online platforms. However, the current system requires physical submission of documents, posing an unnecessary barrier for those who need urgent help, especially those in rural areas, persons with disabilities, or individuals in emotional crisis who may be discouraged by bureaucratic steps. In a digital era where one can open a gambling account in minutes, the same ease of access should be extended to protective mechanisms like self-exclusion.

This bill seeks to mandate PAGCOR to develop and implement a secure, accessible, and mobile-friendly online system where gamblers may electronically submit their request to self-exclude from gambling activities. This includes identity verification through digital means and ensures full compliance with privacy and data protection laws.

By eliminating barriers to self-protection and enabling at-risk individuals to take control of their behavior with dignity and ease, this bill upholds the principle of responsible gaming and strengthens the government's commitment to inclusive and compassionate public service.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**JANICE V. DEGAMO**  
*Representative, 3rd District of Negros Oriental*

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Introduced by **HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO**

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) TO ESTABLISH A SECURE AND ACCESSIBLE ONLINE SYSTEM FOR THE SUBMISSION OF SELF-EXCLUSION REQUESTS FROM GAMBLING ACTIVITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 the “Online Self-Exclusion Accessibility Act.”

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to protect the well-being of its citizens from the adverse effects of gambling addiction by strengthening the accessibility and effectiveness of harm-reduction tools. In a digital era where gambling platforms are readily accessible via smartphones, the State shall ensure that systems for self-regulation and protection, such as self-exclusion mechanisms are equally accessible through secure digital channels.

**Section 3. Mandate for Online Self-Exclusion System.** The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is hereby mandated to:

- a. Develop and maintain a secure, mobile-friendly online system where individuals may voluntarily request to be excluded from participating in all forms of gambling activities regulated by PAGCOR, including but not limited to land-based casinos, online gaming platforms, e-bingo, and other digital or in-person gambling activities.
- b. Allow online submission of self-exclusion requests, supported by digital identity verification mechanisms, such as:
  - i. Electronic submission of a valid government-issued ID;
  - ii. Video or photo confirmation (with real-time timestamp);

- iii. Use of existing national ID authentication systems;
- iv. Any other secure and inclusive method approved by the DICT and National Privacy Commission.

**Section 4. *Accessibility and Language.*** The online self-exclusion system shall be available in Filipino, English, and major regional languages, and designed to be accessible to persons with disabilities (PWDs), using text-to-speech features, large font sizes, and assistive options.

**Section 5. *Privacy and Data Protection.*** All information submitted through the online self-exclusion system shall be strictly confidential, protected under the Data Privacy Act of 2012, and accessible only to authorized personnel for enforcement purposes.

**Section 6. *Enforcement and Integration.*** PAGOR shall:

- a. Integrate the online self-exclusion system with licensed operators' internal systems to automatically block access to gambling accounts, whether physical or online;
- b. Issue regular guidance and updates to operators regarding compliance and enforcement;
- c. Submit an annual report to Congress on the implementation of the system, including anonymized usage data and compliance status of licensed establishments.

**Section 7. *Public Awareness Campaign.*** PAGCOR, in coordination with the Department of Health and Local Government Units, shall conduct an information drive on the existence and benefits of self-exclusion programs, both online and offline.

**Section 8. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to PAGCOR's existing corporate funds. Subsequent appropriations shall be included in its annual corporate operating budget.

**Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, PAGCOR, in consultation with Department of Information and Communications Technology and the National Privacy Commission, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

**Section 10. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 11. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 12. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,