

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3449



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Introduced by **HON. NICANOR M. BRIONES**  
*Representative, AGAP Party List*

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the State policies enshrined in our Constitution states that, “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all”. Further, the Constitution provides that the State shall value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human life.

In the recent years, technology has created an unwelcome ease in engaging in gambling activities which was amplified during the pandemic. Literally, anyone who owns a mobile phone and has access to the internet can easily go into gambling platforms online. This creates a danger and fear that Filipinos, the young, the old, and even the kids, would be easily lured into these “games” that have the potential to cause instant massive financial losses. More than that, it has been long known that engaging in gambling activities can spiral into an unhealthy addiction, with players uncontrollably chasing the elusive wins despite amassing huge losses. Unfortunately, this impacts not only one’s finances; its effects reverberate socially, even to the point of ruining relationships with families and communities.

This bill, thus, proposes the total ban of any form of online gambling. It is hoped that through this bill, we will be able to protect incomes and families, and help Filipinos improve their way of life. It is further hoped that we can help individuals develop better discernment in spending habits that will have long-lasting economic benefits for the country.

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



**NICANOR M. BRIONES**  
*Representative*  
AGAP Partylist

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

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Online Gambling Act”.

**SEC.2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. It is likewise the policy of the State that the promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

The State is constitutionally mandated to value the dignity of every human person and protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare. Towards this end, the State shall adopt measures to eliminate and prohibit all forms of online gambling activities as it undermines the value of an individual’s dignified work by allowing Filipinos go into reckless and risky expenditures for a possibility of instant monetary gain which have put Filipinos in dire financial constraints.

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

- (a) “Internet” refers to an international computer network of interoperable packet switched data networks. It includes the electronic medium in which online communications takes place;

- (b) “Bet” or “Wager” refers to taking or risking by any person of something of value upon the outcome of a contest of others, a sporting event, or a game subject to chance, upon an agreement or understanding that the person or another person will receive something of value in the event of a certain outcome;
- (c) “Internet Gambling” or “Online Gambling” refers to placing, receiving, or otherwise knowingly transmitting a bet or wager by any means which involves the use, at least in part, of the Internet.

**SEC. 4. Prohibition on Online Gambling and Similar Acts.** – Any person who shall place, receive, or otherwise knowingly transmit a bet or wager by any means which involves the use, at least in part, of the internet, shall be punished by an imprisonment ranging from one (1) month to six (6) months or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) nor more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a corporation or association, the maximum penalty of five (5) years and the fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) shall be imposed upon the President, Director, Manager, or Managing Partners thereof.

If the offender is a public officer or employee, or if a public officer or employee promotes or encourages online gambling, the maximum penalty prescribed for the offense shall be imposed and, in addition, he shall be dismissed from the public service and perpetually disqualified from holding any public office, to vote and to participate in any election.

**SEC. 5. Repeal of Authority to Regulate Online Gambling.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, which are interpreted to give legal authority to regulate any form of online gambling are hereby repealed.

**SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government and the Secretary of Justice shall jointly promulgate and issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are amended or repealed accordingly.

**SEC. 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,