

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 488

Introduced by Honorable Jose G. Solis

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the penalties on illegal gambling amending for the purpose Presidential Decree No. 1602 entitled, "Prescribing Stiffer Penalties on Illegal Gambling."

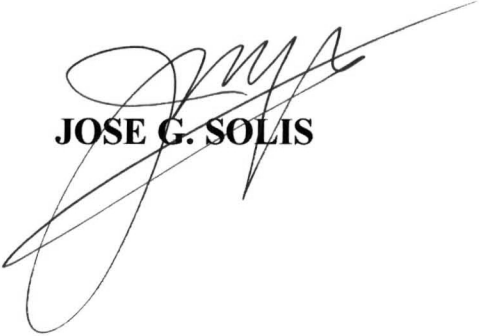
The proliferation of illegal gambling activities throughout the country has been observed to be constantly on the rise and along with it, social ills such as drug addiction, crimes against person and property, and broken family relations.

Illegal gambling is directly or indirectly, perceived to be the reason why said social ills abound. Drug users, alcoholics, and similar deviants resort to gambling to support their addicting vices only to realize later that they are deep in debt due to gambling losses. Their predicament lead them to resort to crime as a means of acquiring fast money thereby threatening the peace and order of our society.

The penalties imposed by present laws have become inadequate or obsolete to discourage, if not stop, these noxious activities. The imposable penalties on illegal gambling are already impractical, ineffective, and unresponsive to the present norms of conduct and behavior of society because laws on the matter were enacted more than two decades ago.

The penalties for illegal gambling must be increased to make it more effective in stopping this social menace which has fostered wrong values and false hopes among our countrymen, as well as dissipated the much needed energy and resources of the people.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this measure is earnestly enough.



JOSE G. SOLIS

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

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AN ACT
PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NUMBERED SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND TWO, AS AMENDED.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1602 entitled, "Prescribing Stiffer Penalties on Illegal Gambling" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1. ***Penalties.*** – The following penalties are hereby imposed:

(a) The penalty of *prision correccional* in its [medium] MAXIMUM period or a fine ranging from [one thousand to six thousand] FIFTY THOUSAND (P50,000.00) TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (P100,000.00) PESOS OR BOTH IMPRISONMENT AND FINE, and in the case of recidivism, the penalty of *prision mayor* in its [medium] MAXIMUM period or a fine ranging from [five thousand to ten thousand] NINETY THOUSAND (P90,000.00) TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P150,000.00) OR BOTH IMPRISONMENT AND FINE shall be imposed upon:

(1) x x x

(2) Any person who shall knowingly permit any form of gambling referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph to be carried on in an inhabited or uninhabited place or in any building, vessel or other means of transportation owned or controlled by him. If the place where gambling is carried on has a reputation of a gambling place or that prohibited gambling is frequently carried on therein, or the place is a public or government building or barangay hall, the malefactor shall be punished by *prision* [correccional] *MAYOR* in its [maximum] MINIMUM period and a fine of [six thousand] ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P150,000.00).

(b) The penalty of *prision* [correccional in its maximum] *MAYOR* IN ITS MEDIUM period or a fine of [six thousand] TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) OR BOTH IMPRISONMENT AND FINE shall be imposed upon the maintainer or conductor of the above gambling schemes.

(c) The penalty of *prision mayor* in its [medium] MAXIMUM period with [temporary] PERPETUAL absolute disqualification or a fine of [six thousand] TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P250,000.00) OR BOTH IMPRISONMENT AND FINE shall be imposed if the maintainer, conductor or banker of said gambling schemes is a government official, or where such government official is the player, promoter, referee, umpire, judge or coach in case of game-fixing, point-shaving and machination.

(d) The penalty of *prision correccional* in its [medium] MAXIMUM period or a fine ranging from [four hundred to two thousand] TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) TO FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR BOTH IMPRISONMENT AND FINE shall be imposed upon any person who shall, knowingly and without lawful purpose in any hour or any day, possess any lottery list, paper pertaining to or in any manner used in the games of jueteng, jai alai or horse racing bookings, and similar games of lotteries and numbers which have taken place or about to take place.

(e) The penalty of [temporary] PERMANENT absolute disqualification shall be imposed upon any barangay official who with knowledge of the existence of a gambling house or place in his jurisdiction fails to abate the same or take action in connection herewith.

(f) The penalty of *prision [correccional]* MAYOR in its maximum MINIMUM period or a fine ranging from [five hundred pesos to two thousand pesos] TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) TO FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR BOTH IMPRISONMENT AND FINE shall be imposed upon Any security officer, security guard, watchman, private or house detective of hotels, villages, buildings, enclosures, and the like which have the reputation of a gambling palce or where gambling activities are being held.”

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,