

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1793

Introduced by: **REP. PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the fine and prison term of illegal gambling, simultaneous and higher if the culprit is a man in uniform or a government official. Current penalties for this violation are proverbial slaps on the wrist, virtual incentives for gambling to proliferate. For example, the fines under existing laws awe a miniscule portion of the gambling lord's daily rake. The hail terms incommensurate with the social havoc it wreaks.

Gambling operations, both of the legal and sub-Rosa variety, are propped-up if not financed by men in uniform, oftentimes in cahoots with politicos, or vice-versa. In many places, gambling, law enforcement and government have interlocking directorates, with the first as the dominant partner, throwing a protective blanket around the lucrative but socially pernicious enterprise.

If this government is really sincere in curbing gambling, as its leaders are wont to pompously proclaim, this bill, if approved, gives more teeth to the already potent arsenal of laws it can rely upon in putting a gambling lord away for a long time. Symbolically, a presidential imprimatur o this bill will unequivocally send the signal that the days of the jueteng kings are numbered and that efforts by their backers in officaldom to extend their reign will be dealt with severely.

Many will question, albeit correctly, the irony, the propriety and the "inequality" of targeting barya-barya operations like the neighborhood sakla joint while the multi-billion peso income of PAGCOR is bandied nationally on primetime TV.

That is however the subject of another legislation, but at least, in this bill, the matter of the obsoleteness of a key facet of the anti-gambling law – that of punishment –

is remedied. Also, it must be stressed that jueteng, to cite one, is no longer a Mom-and-Pop operations but one which has grown significantly in income with a war chest capable, if the rumors are to be believed, of sending their friends to office or in buying whole government offices.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1793

Introduced by: **REP. PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.**

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING HIGHER AND SIMULTANEOUS PENALTIES OF PRISON TERM AND FINE FOR VIOLATIONS OF GAMBLING LAWS WHENEVER THE OFFENDER IS THE MAINTAINER, CONDUCTOR, BANKER OR GAMBLING LORD, AND ADDITIONAL PENALTY IF THE OFFENDER IS A POLICE OR MILITARY OFFICER OR PERSONNEL OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFIICAL AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 1 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1602

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1602 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. Penalties. - The following penalties are hereby imposed:

(a) x x x

(b) The penalty of prision [correccional] MAYOR in its [MAXIMUM] minimum period [OR] AND a fine of [six] ONE HUNDRED thousand pesos shall be imposed upon the maintainer or conductor of the above gambling schemes [;], IF THE SCOPE OF HIS GAMBLING OPERATION IS PROVINCEWIDE, THE PRISON TERM TO BE IMPOSED SHALL BE PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD.

(c) The penalty of prision mayor in its [medium] MAXIMUM period with temporary absolute disqualification [or] AND a fine of [six] TWO HUNDRED thousand pesos shall be imposed if the maintainer, conductor or banker of said gambling schemes is a government official, POLICE OR MILITARY OFFICER or where such government official, POLICE OR MILITARY OFFICER 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 period [or] AND a fine ranging from [four hundred] FIVE THOUSAND to [two] TEN thousand pesos shall be imposed upon any person who shall, knowingly and without lawful purpose in any hour of any day, possess any lottery list, paper or other matter containing letters, figures, signs or symbols pertaining to or in any manner used in the games of jueteng, jai-alai or horse racing bookies, and similar games of lotteries and numbers which have taken place or about to take place.

(e) xxx

(f) The penalty of prision correccional in its maximum period [or] AND a fine ranging from five [hundred] THOUSAND pesos to [two] TEN thousand pesos 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 place or where gambling activities are being held."

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.