

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1858

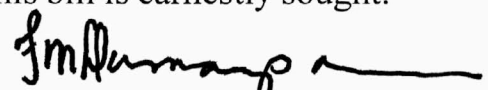
Introduced by Representative Faysah RPM Dumarpa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Wherever computer centers have been established, bright young men of disheveled appearance, often with sunken glowing eyes, can be seen, sitting at computer consoles. They work until they nearly drop...20....30 hours at a time. Their rumpled clothes, their unwashed and unshaven faces, and their uncombed hair all testify that they are oblivious to the world in which they move. They exist, at least when so engaged, only through and for the computers. There's nothing constructive in these game of leisure. Everything is to eliminate, kill, destroy, let's get up and do it fast.

Despite of this, many people, young and adult alike, are engrossed with the famous Ragnarok and other computer/internet games. Students, instead of attending their classes, flock computer centers to play them. Others go to billiard halls and video arcades. This would not be a problem if these establishments are not located or situated near educational institutions. Ordinances have been passed by local government units to regulate the operation of this kind of establishments and such establishments have also formulated their own policies. However, these did not suffice at all. Computer and internet gaming centers, video arcades, billiard halls and the like have continued to operate within the vicinities of our educational institutions. In fact, they have been sprouting like mushroom due to the fact that most of their preys are students. No doubt, our quality of education has diminished. Thus, the object of this bill is to prohibit setting up this kind of business establishments near educational institutions pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution.

Considering the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FAYSAH RPM DUMARPA

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VIDEO ARCADES,
INTERNET GAMING STATIONS, BILLIARD HALLS AND OTHER
SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS NEAR EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS.

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

Section 1. Prohibited Act. It shall be unlawful for any individual to establish video arcades, internet gaming stations, billiard halls and other similar establishments near educational institutions.

Section 2. Penalty. The penalty of arresto menor or a fine of 200 to 2,000 pesos, or both shall be imposed upon any establishments that shall not comply with the provision of this Act.

Section 3. Separability Clause. All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 4. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,