

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

0000- 295
House Bill No. 295

Introduced by **HONORABLE DANILO E. SUAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Gambling is the wagering of money or other items of value on an uncertain event, dependent either wholly or in part on chance. Gambling has been practiced throughout human history and continues to thrive around the world, both legally and illegally, as a lucrative industry and popular entertainment activity.

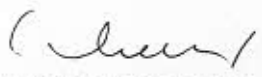
Modern gambling, oftentimes called gaming, has increased rapidly in scope in recent decades. The gaming industry provides jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers and is an important source of tax revenue where it flourishes. Some community and religious groups oppose gambling because of concerns that it leads to crime, corruption, and other social ills. Legal gambling is subject to strict government regulation in much of the world, including minimum age requirements and—in some cases—the odds of winning in specific games or machines.

In the Philippines, games of chance and other numbers games are under the direct control and supervision of certain government agencies, more particularly the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine Racing Commission (PRC). PAGCOR operates and regulates casinos throughout the country. Lotto and sweepstakes operations are under the wing of the PCSO while PRC handles all horse racing activities.

With respect to two of the Filipinos favorite pastimes, cockfighting, there is no government agency handling this. The illegal numbers game, *jueteng*, remains prevalent and is beyond the reach of government regulation. As it is, government is unstructured and scattered when it comes to regulating gambling and gaming in the country. This set-up disallows maximization of revenues on all types of gambling and gaming that Filipinos engage in.

This bill thus seeks to centralize all government regulations and supervision over gambling and gaming in the country to ensure maximization of earnings from casinos, lotto and sweepstakes operations, small time lottery (STL), cockfighting and horseracing games and from other numbers games. Through this proposed legislative measure, it is expected that with the government assuming the role of a regulatory body, more taxes and fees will be collected by the national government.

The approval of this bill is thus earnestly requested.


DANILO E. SUAREZ
Representative
Third District, Province of Quezon

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AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL GAMING COMMISSION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Sec. 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to regulate the operation and conduct of games of chance and other related activities within the territorial jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 2. Creation of the National Gaming Commission – To implement State policies and pursue the objectives set forth in the preceding section, there is hereby created a National Gaming Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "NGC", which shall have regulatory powers over all games of chance and other numbers game within the territorial jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 3. Coverage – The NGC shall regulate the operation of casinos presently handled by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), the lotto and sweepstakes operated by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the horseracing events operated by the Philippine Racing Commission (PRC), cockfighting and other existing numbers games:

Sec. 4. Composition. – The NGC shall be composed of one (1) Commissioner as its head and four (4) Deputy Commissioners. Each Deputy Commissioner shall be in charge of casino, lottery operations (sweepstakes, lotto and small town lottery), cockfighting, and horse racing.

Sec. 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, other executive issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved.