

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6249**



Introduced by Manila Teachers Representative  
VIRGILIO S. LACSON

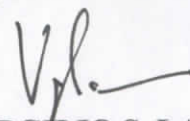
### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The recent incident in Resorts World Manila with the gunman being heavily financially indebted due to his accruing financial obligations from his creditors resulting to his gambling addiction can be prevented if mechanisms were in place to prevent individuals from accruing indebtedness from loan sharks operating inside casinos which are taking advantage of their misfortunes.

Reports within the gaming industry say that casino creditors have been around since the time casinos opened in the country. Each financier can lend up to 100 Million Pesos a week to borrowers who have been losing in the casino in exchange for their cars, real estate properties and personal belongings such as expensive watches and jewelry. These loan sharks charge two percent a day in interest or 20 percent a month to borrowers.

This bill aims to criminalize nefarious loaning and credit activities inside casinos (soliciting, undertaking credit or loaning activities inside casino premises either physically or electronically, financing casino players in exchange for properties) to protect individuals from loan sharks who offer to finance their gambling activities in exchange for unfair collateral, prescribe severe penalties to curb illegal loaning transactions inside casinos and hold casino operators accountable in ensuring that their establishments are not accessory to the perpetration of the crime.

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

  
VIRGILIO S. LACSON

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6249**

---

Introduced by Manila Teachers Representative  
VIRGILIO S. LACSON

---

**AN ACT**  
**CRIMINALIZING THE CREDIT AND LOANING ACTIVITIES OF LOAN SHARKS**  
**INSIDE CASINO PREMISES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Protection Against Casino Loan Sharks Act of 2017”

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall outlaw credit and loaning activities of loan sharks inside casino premises as it pose imminent threat to the financial credibility and monetary viability of individuals.

The State shall ensure that individuals continue to possess sound financial disposition and are provided legal means that shall protect them from accruing indebtedness by criminalizing loaning activities of loan sharks illegally operating inside casinos.

**SEC. 3. *Definition.*** – Any person soliciting, undertaking credit or loaning activities inside casino premises either physically or electronically, financing casino players in exchange for their cars, real estate properties and personal belongings as collateral and charging interest rates for the principal amount borrowed, shall be guilty of illegal credit or loaning and upon conviction shall be penalized as provided in Section 4 hereof.

**SEC. 4. *Penalties.*** – Any person found guilty of violating the provisions of this Act shall suffer the penalty of *PRISION MAYOR* to *RECLUSION TEMPORAL* and a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000) at the discretion of the court.

**SEC. 5. *Direct Liability of Casino Operators.*** – Casino Operators shall be directly and principally liable jointly with the offender for the commission of the offense for civil damages unless the Casino Operators are able to establish that the establishment exercised due diligence in preventing loaning activities inside their casino premises.

**SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof, which are not inconsistent with this Act, are hereby modified and repealed.

**SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,