



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7528



Introduced by Representative Jose T. Panganiban, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

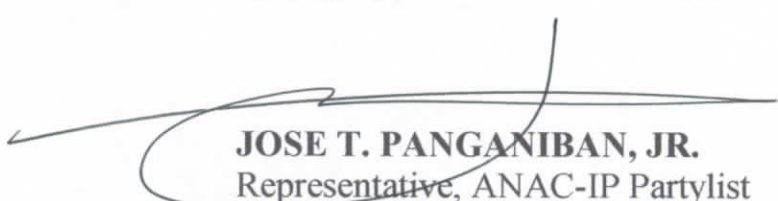
This bill seeks to prohibit the live streaming and broadcasting of cockfighting in radio, television, internet, and other social media platform, for purposes of betting and gambling.

Cockfighting or *sabong* is a popular, customary and traditional form of recreation in the country. It is usually held during Sundays, holidays, local fiestas and fairs. Cockfighting shares elements of Asian culture. History shows that cockfighting flourished even before Spain colonized our country.

The present age of technology puts live cockfighting in the limelight. Reports show that there are live domestic and foreign broadcasts in radio and television as well as internet live streaming of cockfighting in the country. Operators of these live and online cockfighting utilize the numerous off-track betting (OTB) stations used for horse-racing and restaurants and club facilities and institution in Metro Manila and the provinces for betting and gambling. Internet-savvy bettors are now into the live-streaming of actual cockfighting events. In these activities, cockfighting is exploited and used for uncontrolled online gambling. This new form of gambling which is not regulated by the government is a social menace that facilitates corruption.

Cockfighting is an indigenous Filipino heritage, and we need to preserve such customs and traditions to enhance our national identity.

Hence, this bill seeks to prohibit the live broadcast of cockfighting in order to eradicate the proliferation of uncontrolled betting and prevent illegal online gambling. In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


JOSE T. PANGANIBAN, JR.
Representative, ANAC-IP Partylist

(a) Use radio, television and the internet to broadcast or livestream an actual cockfighting event for purposes of betting and gambling;

(b) Operate, produce or promote the broadcast of actual cockfighting event through a radio or television station for purposes of betting and gambling; and

(c) Maintain a website or platform where live streaming of an actual cockfighting for purposes of betting and gambling is being shown or exhibited.

For purposes of this Act, *live streaming* refers to the act of transmitting, receiving, or broadcasting a live video or audio coverage of a cockfighting event over the internet.

SEC. 4. **Penalties.** – Any person who violates Section 3 of this Act shall, upon conviction, suffer the following penalties:

(a) If the offender is the presenter or exhibitor of live stream cockfighting, imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than five (5) years or a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00).

(b) If the offender is the internet service provider or website operator, imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) years but not more than twenty (20) years and a fine of not less than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00).

If the offense is committed by a corporation, partnership, association or any other juridical entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the president,

1 managing director, partner, or chief operating officer responsible for the
2 violation.

3 If the offender is a foreigner, the offender shall, after service of sentence
4 or payment of fine, be subject to deportation and permanently banned from
5 entering the country.

6 (c) If the offender is the operator or owner of the radio or television
7 station, or the producer or promoter of the live broadcast of cockfighting,
8 imprisonment of not less than twenty (20) years but not more than thirty (30)
9 years and a fine of not less than Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00) but not
10 more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00).

11 The license to operate of the erring radio or television station shall be
12 cancelled and revoked permanently. The operator or owner thereof shall not be
13 allowed to operate similar establishments in a different name or in a different
14 location.

15 SEC. 5. *Duties of Government Agencies.* – The Philippine National
16 Police (PNP) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) shall be
17 responsible for monitoring and implementing the provisions of existing laws on
18 cockfighting, in coordination with the following government agencies to ensure
19 the effective implementation of this Act:

20 (a) Department of Justice (DOJ);

21 (b) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);

1 (c) Department of Information and Communications Technology
2 (DICT); and

3 (d) National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

4 The PNP and/or NBI shall, in addition to its regular functions exercise the
5 following duties:

6 (a) Seek the assistance of the local government units (LGU) to identify
7 the operators and persons responsible for the live broadcast, transmission or live
8 streaming of cockfighting;

9 (b) Initiate the prosecution of all persons involved in the violation of
10 this Act;

11 (c) Receive complaints from the general public on the existence of
12 business establishments that engage in the live broadcast, transmission or live
13 streaming of cockfighting;

14 (d) Recommend the cancellation of the business permits of those found
15 violating the provisions of this Act; and

16 (e) Perform such other acts necessary to carry out the objectives of this
17 Act.

18 SEC. 6. ***Disposition of Materials.*** – Any prohibited material, including
19 tools, instruments and equipment, used in the broadcast or live streaming of
20 cockfighting shall, after lawful seizure and final conviction of the offender, be
21 forfeited in favor of the government.

1 SEC. 7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90)
2 days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Justice shall, in
3 coordination with the National Telecommunications and Commission, issue the
4 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

5 SEC. 8. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
6 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any
7 provision of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8 SEC. 9. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

10 Approved,