

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

House Bill No. **10768**



**Introduced by Representatives JOCELYN P. TULFO, ERWIN T. TULFO,
RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO, and EDVIC G. YAP,**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to regulate the ownership and operation of unmanned aerial vehicle specifically drones.

Currently, drones have become increasingly popular and have emerged as transformative tools with the potential to revolutionize industries, enhance public safety, and enrich our daily lives.

The increasing accessibility and affordability of drones present both unprecedented opportunities and considerable challenges for the government. While these devices hold immense promise for advancing sectors such as agriculture, emergency response, and environmental monitoring, they also pose risks when utilized for unlawful activities. The potential for drones to infringe on privacy, facilitate criminal operations, or disrupt public safety necessitates a robust regulatory framework.

Our goal in enacting this measure is to establish a comprehensive framework regulation that safeguard the public, protect individual rights, and promote the responsible use of drones. This involves setting forth stringent guidelines that define acceptable use, enhance accountability, and implement effective monitoring systems. By doing so, we can harness the benefits of drone technology while mitigating the risks associated with its misuse and potential harm to our national security.

Some of the unique features of this proposed measure is the requirement for aperiodic registration of drones, a permit to operate drones and establishment of a no-drone zone for privately operated drones. With these guidelines, we hope to promote a more responsible use of drones and prevent any unlawful use of drones for criminal activities.

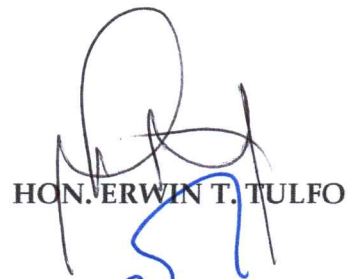
Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO



HON. RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO



HON. ERWIN T. TULFO



HON. EDVIC G. YAP

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**AN ACT
REGULATING THE OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF DRONES BY
PRIVATE PERSONS**

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

**ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Drone Regulation*
2 *Act*”.

3
4 **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to regulate the
5 ownership and operation of drones by private persons in order to ensure public safety.

6
7 **Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall
8 mean:

- 9
10 (a) Drone – shall refer to an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or any component of
11 an unmanned aerial system (UAS) that has no pilot and is controlled by an
12 operator on the ground. The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
13 (CAAP) is authorized by this Act to classify drones into types for the purpose
14 of regulation.
15 (b) Private Persons – shall refer to natural or juridical persons not employed by or
16 part of the Government.
17 (c) Commercial Drone Use – is any use of a drone in connection with a business or
18 profession for the sake of profit, whether the profit is the primary purpose of
19 the drone use or merely an incidental result.
20 (d) Hobbyist Drone Use – the use of drones for recreational purposes where no
21 profit is made from the use of drones.
22

1 **Sec. 4. Registration and Permit to Operate.** - All drone owners, whether the
2 drones are for hobbyist or commercial use, are hereby required to periodically register
3 their drones with the CAAPs Public Safety and Security Command Center.

4 Only a registered commercial drone owner may apply for a permit to operate, which
5 shall be issued periodically upon proof that the owner:

- 6
- 7 a. Qualifies for a radio operator's certificate of proficiency;
- 8 b. Has been awarded a passing rating in an aviation license theory examination;
- 9 c. Has completed a training course in the operation of the type of drone that will
10 be operated;
- 11 d. Has at least five (5) hours of experience operating drones outside of controlled
12 airspace;
- 13 e. Has valid insurance over the drone;
- 14 f. Has not incurred any violation for drone ownership or use in the five (5) years
15 immediately preceding an application for permit.
- 16

17 The operator's permit to operate shall cover all registered drones of the same type.
18 The Authority is hereby authorized to collect reasonable fees for the registration of
19 drones and processing of permits to operate the drones.
20

21 **Sec. 5. Establishment of No-Drone Zone.** The CAAP is hereby authorized to
22 prohibit the use of drones, whether hobbyist or commercial or both, in any part of the
23 Philippines, whether permanently or for a designated period of time, subject to notice
24 that must be published in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
25

26 The notice must clearly state the no-drone zone and must be published at least
27 three (3) weeks prior to the effectivity of the prohibition. Notice can only be foregone
28 in emergency situations, as determined by the CAAP.
29

30 This power is without prejudice to the power of other government agencies to
31 regulate airspace, particularly in emergency situations that may require the
32 establishment of no-fly zones.
33

34 **Sec. 6. General Safety Regulations and Restrictions on Drone Usage.** - The
35 CAAP shall periodically update and publish safety regulation and restrictions of
36 drone usage, the violation of which shall be the basis for revocation of the permit to
37 operate and confiscation of the drone, without prejudice to the penalties provided in
38 this Act and any civil or criminal suits that may be filed as a result of the violation.
39 These safety regulations and restrictions shall include:
40

- 41 1. Requiring all drones, whether for hobbyist or commercial use, to be clearly
42 marked with the name, contact number, and address of the owner;
- 43 2. Prohibiting the use of drones as means to violate constitutional rights,
44 including the right to privacy;
- 45 3. A prohibition on flying drones above four hundred (400) feet;
- 46 4. A prohibition on flying drones near aircraft, particularly near airports;

- 1 5. Allowing drone operation only during daylight hours and in good weather,
2 subject to exceptions to be crafted by CAAP;
- 3 6. The prohibition on flying drones over groups of people, public events, or
4 stadiums full of people, subject to exceptions to be crafted by CAAP;
- 5 7. The prohibition on flying drones near emergencies, such as fires;
- 6 8. The prohibition on flying drones under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- 7 9. For recreational drone use, requiring an operator to keep the drone within the
8 operator's line of sight; and
- 9 10. Other regulations as the CAAP may see fit to introduce in the interest of public
10 safety, such as further restriction on types of drones as classified by the CAAP.

11
12 **Sec. 7. Penalties.** – Failure to register a drone shall result in the confiscation of
13 the drone. Operating a drone for commercial purposes without a permit shall result
14 in the confiscation of the drone and a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos
15 (Php50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00).
16

17 Any violation of the general safety regulations and restrictions on drone usage
18 shall result in a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00)
19 but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php500,000.00), without prejudice
20 to any separate civil or criminal charges that may be brought against the drone owner
21 and/or operator for any injury or damage resulting from the violation.
22

23 **Sec. 8. Liability of the Registered Owner.** – The registered owner of the
24 UAV Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The CAAP shall issue the necessary rules
25 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90)
26 days from the date of effectivity of this Act.
27

28 **Sec. 9. Retroactivity.** – This Act shall have retroactive effect. All drone owners
29 who have not yet registered their drones or obtained permits to operate their drone
30 are given ninety (90) days from the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and
31 Regulations of this Act to register and obtain permits without sanction.
32

33 **Sec. 10. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
34 void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provision of this Act shall not be
35 affected by such declarations.
36

37 **Sec. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All law, decrees, orders, rules and regulations,
38 other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
39 repealed or modified accordingly.
40

41 **Sec. 12. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
42 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
43

44 *Approved,*