

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4797



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF DRONES WITHIN A 100-METER RADIUS
FROM JAIL FACILITIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution declares that “[t]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.”¹ This constitutional mandate compels the State to ensure public safety and security, especially in sensitive areas such as detention and correctional facilities.

In recent years, there has been a rapid rise in the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including drones.² In fact, there are talks between the private sector and government agencies for the potential use of drones in deliveries.³

While drones serve legitimate purposes in commerce and recreation, they can also be misused, such as by conducting unauthorized surveillance or smuggling contraband into jails. According to a report from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, there have been cases of drones falling near jail facilities with packets of

¹ 1987 Constitution, Article II, Section 5.

² “Why the use of drones in Philippine construction is growing fast,” Philippine Drone Network. Available at <https://philippinedronenetwork.com.ph/construction-news/drones-are-transforming-how-we-do-construction-in-the-philippines-heres-why/>.

³ Gonzales, Gelo. (2025). The PH gov’t and Grab’s drone delivery program: How has it been done in other countries? Rappler. Available at <https://www.rappler.com/technology/features/grab-drone-delivery-pilot-philippines-june-2025/>.

suspected illegal drugs attached.⁴ Such activities compromise the stability of jail operations and undermine public safety. Therefore, there is a need to respond to its security challenges.

At present, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) regulates drone usage primarily around airports,⁵ populous areas, and other national security-sensitive airspace.⁶ However, there is no explicit national law prohibiting or restricting drone operations in the vicinity of jail facilities. To address this gap, several local government units have enacted ordinances establishing no-fly zones near jails, but these measures remain localized.⁷

This bill seeks to prohibit the operation of drones within a 100-meter radius of jail facilities, except in cases where proper authorization has been secured from the CAAP. It also provides penalties for violations, including fines, imprisonment, and forfeiture of confiscated drones. The passage of this measure ultimately aims to strengthen the security of jail facilities and safeguard communities.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

⁴ Villanueva (2022). BJMP: Inmates Now Using Drones To Sneak In Contraband. Available at <https://www.onenews.ph/articles/bjmp-inmates-now-using-drones-to-sneak-in-contraband>

⁵ CAAP Memorandum Circular No. 026-2025, April 28, 2025.

⁶ CAAP Memorandum Circular No. 010-2024. May 14, 2024.

⁷ San Juan City Ordinance No. 12, series of 2022, available at <https://www.sanjuancity.gov.ph/SanJuanCity/legitas-web-ordinance/8>; Mandaluyong City Ordinance No. 908, series of 22, available at <https://mandaluyong.gov.ph/download/ordinance-no-908-s-2022/>. Dagupan City Ordinance No. 2242-2021, available at <https://sp.dagupan.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2242.pdf>; Batangas City Ordinance No. 22-09, series of 2023, available at <https://www.batangascity.gov.ph/web/images/Ordinances2023/ORD202322-09.pdf>.

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AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Drone-Free Jails Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to maintain peace and order and to protect life, liberty and property in the promotion of the general welfare. Pursuant to this, the State shall enact a law that prohibits or regulate the operation of drones within the vicinity of jail facility to maintain the level of security and stability of its operation towards the enhancement of public safety.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) CAAP – Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines;
- (b) Commercial Drone Use – use of a drone in connection with a business or profession for the sake of profit, whether the profit is the primary purpose of the drone use or merely an incidental result;
- (c) Congested Area – a city, town or settlement, or open-air assembly of people;
- (d) Hobbyist Drone Use – the use of drones for recreational purposes where no profit is made from use of drones;

- (e) Jail Facility – a place for the confinement of Person Deprived of Liberty (PDL) people accused or convicted of a crime.
- (f) Private Persons – shall refer to natural or juridical persons not employed by or part of the Philippine government;
- (g) Prohibited Airspace – Airspace of defined dimensions identified by an area on the surface of the earth in which flight of aircraft is prohibited. Such areas are established for security or other reasons associated with the national welfare;
- (h) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) – an aircraft without a human pilot aboard or a component of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS), including but not limited to drones. The flight of UAVs may operate with various degrees of autonomy, either under the remote control by a human operator or autonomous by onboard computers.

SECTION 4. Prohibited Act — It shall be unlawful for any person to operate Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), such as but not limited to drones, and other similar aerial vehicles, whether for commercial, hobbyist or any other purposes, within a one hundred (100) meter radius from jail facilities, except in emergency cases where the CAAP issued a permit to operate with the consent of the jail authority or for custodial security purposes of the Jail Facility.

SECTION 5. Penalties — Any person found guilty of violating the provision on the prohibited act shall pay a fine of not less than fifty thousand (P50,000) but not more than Two Hundred Thousand (P200,000) and/or imprisonment of one (1) year.

SECTION 6. Forfeitures — The confiscated drone shall within fifteen (15) days upon the termination of the case be turned over to the CAAP for proper disposal in accordance with the CAAP governing rules or policy.

SECTION 7. Notice of No-Drone Zone — The CAAP shall periodically update and publish safety regulations and restrictions of drone usage to include the prohibition of drone operation within the vicinity of jails pursuant to this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. - Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and operational.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. — This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,