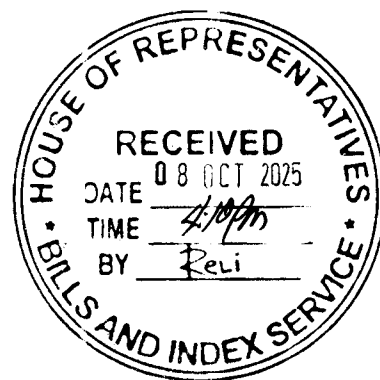




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5343



Introduced by Representative Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent years, there has been an alarming increase in the number of incidents involving illegal drag racing across various parts of the country. These races, often held on public roads and without proper safety protocols, have not only endangered the lives of the participants but have also posed grave risks to innocent motorists, pedestrians, and local communities.

Illegal drag racing is not merely a public nuisance; it is a serious threat to public safety. These unauthorized high-speed competitions have resulted in numerous road accidents, injuries, and even fatalities. The inherently reckless nature of drag racing, when done outside controlled and regulated environments, undermines traffic laws and creates unsafe road conditions for the general public.

While the Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued advisories that illegal drag racing on public roads is a punishable act, and while it may be penalized under Republic Act No. 4136 or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code as a form of "reckless driving," there remains no specific law in the Philippines that directly and expressly penalizes illegal drag racing. This legal vacuum has arguably contributed to the continued proliferation and boldness of these activities in various urban and suburban areas.

This proposed measure, the "Anti-Illegal Drag Racing Act," seeks to address this legislative gap by explicitly defining what constitutes illegal drag racing and imposing specific penalties on violators. By doing so, this bill aims to deter would-be offenders, promote public safety, and uphold the rule of law on our streets.

Similar legislative initiatives were introduced during the 18th and 19th Congress, but unfortunately, they did not progress into law. Recognizing the urgent need to address this issue, this representation is refiling this bill to once again push for a comprehensive and specific measure that will combat illegal drag racing and ensure safer roads for all Filipinos.

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


RAMON RODRIGO L. GUTIERREZ
1-Rider Partylist Representative



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HOUSE BILL NO. **5343**

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AN ACT
DEFINING ILLEGAL DRAG RACING AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES
THEREFOR

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 **ANTI-ILLEGAL DRAG RACING ACT**.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall promote the general welfare and safety of both pedestrians and motorists and, hence, shall outlaw the practice of illegal drag racing that jeopardizes road safety.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:

- a) *Drag Racing* refers to a road race involving two (2) or more road vehicles driven side by side within a specified distance at accelerating speeds with the objective to outdo each other, or the employment of vehicles not necessarily driven side by side over a common course for the purpose of determining the relative speeds or power of acceleration of the vehicles;
- b) *Illegal Drag Racing* refers to a drag racing not sanctioned or permitted by government authorities. The term also includes a race between public utility vehicles randomly overtaking each other for the purpose of getting to the passengers ahead of another or the mere purpose of outdistancing another at speeds beyond the legal speed limit of a certain road;
- c) *Road Vehicle* refers to any type of motorized or electric vehicle, which uses a road, street, or highway for conveyance of people or goods. The term includes four-wheeled, three-wheeled and two-wheeled vehicle but shall not include vehicles classified as heavy equipment or agriculture equipment.

SECTION 4. Ban on Illegal Drag Racing. - Upon the effectivity of this Act, no drag racing of any kind shall be conducted or held on any public road, street or highway unless sanctioned by the government and approved by the local government unit (LGU) having jurisdiction over the venue. Drag racing on a

private road or property shall also be deemed illegal unless permitted by the LGU concerned.

SECTION 5. *Penalties.* – Any person guilty of illegal drag racing, including the promoter or organizer thereof, upon conviction, shall be penalized with a fine of not less than Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) nor more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or imprisonment of one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court. The penalties herein provided shall be without prejudice to the imposition of additional penalties resulting from the commission of other crimes or offenses occasioned by the same act.

The driver's license of a person who participated in illegal drag racing shall be immediately confiscated and suspended for a period of six (6) months. The driver's license may only be redeemed upon undergoing a seminar for proper driving and such other requirements under the existing policies of the Land Transportation Office (LTO). The commission of the offense for the second time shall result in the perpetual disqualification of the offender from being issued a driver's license.

SECTION 6. *Impounding of Vehicles Involved in Illegal Drag Racing.* – Any vehicle involved in illegal drag racing shall be immediately impounded. The LTO, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) shall provide a reasonable schedule of fees for the storage of impounded vehicles.

SECTION 7. *Assistance of Relevant Government Agencies.* – To ensure the effective implementation of this Act, the DOTr shall work hand in hand with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the LGUs in the area of enforcement.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOTr shall, within ninety (90) days following the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation. The rules and regulations shall be crafted in consultation with the DILG, the PNP, the LTO, the LTFRB, the MMDA and the relevant government agencies and private stakeholders.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or any part thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

