



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5412



Introduced by Representative Jernie Jett V. Nisay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Online gambling has rapidly expanded in the Philippines due to increased internet accessibility and digital payment systems. While it has generated revenue streams and employment opportunities, its social costs have grown significantly—fueling gambling addiction, family disintegration, and financial distress among Filipinos, particularly among the youth and low-income earners.¹

Studies show that online gambling contributes to adverse behavioral and psychological outcomes, including addiction, debt, and reduced work productivity.² Moreover, the borderless nature of the internet makes it difficult for national authorities to regulate gambling activities, creating opportunities for fraud, money laundering, and other cyber-related offenses.³

The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote a just and dynamic social order, provide adequate social services, and ensure that economic opportunities uphold the dignity of labor.⁴ In this light, the proliferation of online gambling undermines these principles by promoting speculative behavior, fostering dependency on chance-based income, and distracting individuals from productive and dignified work.

This bill, therefore, seeks to prohibit all forms of online gambling and to penalize individuals and entities who participate in or facilitate such activities. It also repeals existing laws, regulations, and authorities that enable or legalize online gambling operations, ensuring a uniform national policy of prohibition.

Through this measure, the State reaffirms its commitment to the moral, social, and economic well-being of the Filipino people and to fostering a culture of responsible financial behavior, dignity in work, and protection from exploitative digital practices.⁵

¹ Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). (2023). *Online Gambling Impact Report*. Manila: PAGCOR.

² World Health Organization. (2022). *Public Health Implications of Gambling*. Geneva: WHO.

³ Department of Justice – Office of Cybercrime. (2023). *Annual Report on Internet-Based Criminal Activities*.

⁴ 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 9; Article XIII, Section 3.

⁵ Department of Social Welfare and Development. (2024). *Socioeconomic Consequences of Online Gambling in the Philippines*.

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


REP. JERNIE JETT V. MISAY
Pusong Pinoy Partylist



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AN ACT
PROHIBITING ONLINE GAMBLING, PENALIZING THE PLACING OF
WAGERS OR BETS THROUGH THE INTERNET OR ANY FORM OF ONLINE
GAMBLING ACTIVITIES, 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 “*Anti-Online Gambling Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation. Through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, and a commitment to create economic opportunities, the State shall free the people from poverty.

The 1987 Constitution states that workers shall be entitled to security of tenure, humane conditions of work, and a living wage. They have the right to be treated with dignity. Towards this end, the State shall adopt measures to eliminate and prohibit all forms of online gambling activities as it undermines the value of an individual’s dignified work by allowing reckless and risky expenditures at the possibility of instant monetary gain which have led many Filipinos to experience dire financial situations.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

a.) “Internet” refers to an international computer network of interoperable packet switched data networks. It includes the electronic medium in which online communication takes place.

b.) “Bet” or “Wager” refers to taking or risking by any person of something of value upon the outcome of a contest of others, a sporting event, or a game subject to chance, upon an agreement or understanding that the person or another person will receive something of value in the event of a certain outcome.

c.) “Internet Gambling” or “Online Gambling” refers to placing, receiving, or otherwise knowingly transmitting a bet or wager by any means which involves the use, at least in part, of the Internet.

SECTION 4. Prohibition on Online Gambling and similar acts. – Any person who shall place, receive, or otherwise knowingly transmit a bet or wager by any means which involves the use, at least in part, of the internet, shall be punished by an imprisonment ranging from one (1) month to six (6) months or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) nor more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a corporation or association, the maximum penalty of five (5) years and the fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) shall be imposed upon the President, Director, Manager or Managing partners thereof.

If the offender is a public officer or employee, or if a public officer or employee promotes or encourages online gambling, the maximum penalty prescribed for the offense shall be imposed and, in addition, he shall be dismissed from the public service and perpetually disqualified from holding any public office, to vote and to participate in any election.

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2 **SECTION 5. Repeal of Authority to Regulate Online Gambling.** – All laws,
3 decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, which are interpreted to give legal
4 authority to regulate any forms of online gambling are hereby repealed.
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6 **SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30) days
7 from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Interior Local Government and the
8 Secretary of Justice shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective
9 implementation of this measure.
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11 **SECTION 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
12 regulations or parts thereof contrary to, or inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified
13 or repealed accordingly.
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15 **SECTION 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.
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18 *Approved.*