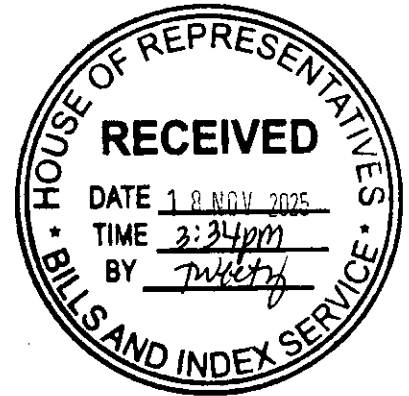




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6139



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The past couple of years saw rapid advancement in drone technology. It was primarily marketed as a tool for private citizens to capture aerial views of important events such as family gatherings, vacations, or weddings, among other things.

In response to growing drone activity, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) tried setting operational limitations, registration requirements, and safety protocols for drones. However, these regulations were limited to airspace management and flight safety, and did not address the broader issues of ownership, importation, modification, sale, or potential criminal misuse.

Over the years, law enforcement agencies, particularly the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), have observed an increasing number of drone-related incidents, ranging from unauthorized aerial surveillance near restricted areas, intrusion into critical infrastructure, and the use of drones for smuggling contraband in detention facilities. The lack of a specific national law criminalizing or regulating such activities has constrained enforcement and accountability.

In the hands of the wrong person, a drone can be used to destroy property and take human lives. The war in Ukraine saw the deadly military application of drones. In January 2025, a civilian drone impeded the operations of firefighters in California, United States. A drone operated by a private person collided with a firefighting

aircraft tasked to battle the terrible wildfire that hit Los Angeles.¹ This collision grounded the aircraft, preventing it to stop the wildfires that killed an estimated 440 people.²

Other countries such as the United Kingdom and Denmark have taken measures to improve the regulation of civilian drones. Denmark claims that decision was made in order to "simplify security work" for the police, and they could not accept "foreign drones creating uncertainty and disruption".³

This bill seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework governing the importation, manufacture, sale, lease, ownership, and operation of drones. The measure will also empower law enforcement agencies, particularly the Philippine National Police (PNP), to prevent and investigate drone-related offenses and enforce compliance with safety and security standards.


CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental

¹ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1241532>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx29wjg3vz2o>

³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c708dzqvz1vo>



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6139

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

AN ACT
REGULATING THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURING, MODIFICATION,
SALE, LEASE, OWNERSHIP, AND OPERATION OF DRONES,
STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN
ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY, PREVENT POTENTIAL USE IN
ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION
THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Drone Regulation Act of 2025”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to maintain peace and order, and protect the life, liberty, and property of all people. To promote innovation, safety, and responsible use of Unmanned Systems (UMS), also known as drones. The State recognizes their value in commerce, law enforcement, disaster response, and national development. At the same time, the State shall protect national security and public welfare by preventing the use of drones in terrorism, espionage, smuggling, and other criminal acts.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act:

- a. Unmanned System (UMS) - any vehicle or device capable of operation without an onboard human pilot or driver, including but not limited to unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned ground vehicles, and unmanned underwater vehicles or submersible vehicles and any other similar unmanned systems.
- b. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)– an aircraft operated without a human pilot onboard, remotely controlled or autonomously, commonly known as drone.
- c. Law Enforcement Use – refers to the operation of UMS by the Philippine National Police (PNP) or other duly authorized agencies for surveillance, search and rescue, crime prevention, investigation, public order, internal security operation, and disaster response.
- d. CAAP Regulations – Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines rules, including Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) Part 11 and Part 14 and CAAP Memorandum Circular No. 29-15, governing UAS operations.
- e. Unmanned Underwater Vehicle – an unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV), either remotely operated or autonomous, designed to navigate and operate below the water's surface for purposes such as surveillance, inspection, search and rescue, environmental monitoring, and security operations.
- f. Land Drone – an unmanned ground vehicle (UGV), either remotely operated or autonomous, designed to move and perform tasks on land such as surveillance, reconnaissance, delivery, hazardous material handling, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), or support to law enforcement and military operations.

SECTION 4. General Provisions.

- a. The sale, importation, and ownership of drones shall not be prohibited, provided they comply registration requirements with Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP for aerial drones), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Directorate for Operations (Operations), and National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for communication frequencies.
- b. Drones weighing more than 250 grams must be registered.
- c. Commercial drone operators must secure the required Remote Pilot License (RPL) and Unmanned System/Drone (UMS) Ownership/Lease.

SECTION 5. Law Enforcement Operations.

- a. The PNP is hereby authorized to operate drones in the performance of its mandated functions, subject to coordination with CAAP.
- b. The PNP may use drones for:
 - i. Intelligence gathering and surveillance in crime-prone or insurgency-affected areas;
 - ii. Search and rescue operations;
 - iii. Monitoring of public assemblies and mass gatherings;
 - iv. Counter-terrorism operations, including detection, tracking, and neutralization of drones used for terrorist activities.
- c. Drone use for law enforcement must respect constitutional rights to privacy and due process. Any evidence obtained in violation of such rights shall be inadmissible in court.

SECTION 6. Coordination with CAAP. The PNP shall operate UAS in accordance with CAAP regulations, particularly on:

- a. Flight ceilings and airspace restrictions;
- b. Prohibited zones such as airports and military facilities;
- c. Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations, which require prior CAAP approval.

SECTION 7. Security Measures.

- a. The importation and sale of high-capacity drones (exceeding weight, range, or payload thresholds set by CAAP) shall be reported to the PNP for monitoring.
- b. CAAP, in coordination with the PNP and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), shall designate No-Drone Zones, particularly around airports, military bases, power plants, and government facilities.
- c. Any drone detected in a restricted airspace may be subject to immediate interdiction by law enforcement or military units using electronic countermeasures or physical neutralization.

SECTION 8. Penalties.

- a. **Illegal Operations** – Any person operating a drone without complying with CAAP or PNP requirements shall be fined ₱50,000 to ₱500,000, or imprisoned for 1–3 years, or both.
- b. **Malicious Use** – Any person who uses drones for smuggling, espionage, stalking, or harassment shall be punished under applicable laws, in addition to the penalty prescribed in this Act.

- c. **Terrorism-Related Use** – Any person who uses drones for terrorist purposes, including but not limited to:
- i. Transporting, releasing, or detonating explosives, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials;
 - ii. Conducting aerial surveillance or propaganda for a terrorist organization;
 - iii. Supporting recruitment, intimidation, or attacks against government, civilians, or critical infrastructure - shall be penalized under **Republic Act No. 11479 (Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020)**, in addition to the penalties prescribed in this Act.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

- i. Within 90 days from the effectivity of this Act, CAAP, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the PNP, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 10. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,