



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

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6962



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA “BAI DIMPLE” I. MASTURA

“AN ACT PROHIBITING ONLINE GAMBLING AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

More often than not, gambling has been seen to be the cause of many negative consequences, affecting by and large, individuals, families, communities and many sectors of society as a whole; and when left unchecked becomes pervasive and an addiction.

Gambling addiction can lead to massive debts, financial collapse leading to bankruptcy, mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and increased risk of suicides; not to mention the strain on relationships with family, community and society.

It is also ironic that Article II, Section 12 of the 1987 Constitution commits the State to recognize the sanctity of family life, ensure its protection and strengthen its moral foundation as a basic autonomous social institution, and yet here in the Philippines, gambling may explicitly be allowed and regulated by government authorities in the interest of generating revenues.

The most prolific type of gambling that has affected a large segment of society in the most convenient and fastest way in current times is online gambling, a testament to the combination of advances in telecommunications technology and democratization of the internet.

Such is the speed by which online gambling has descended on Philippine society that government is now alarmed by the uncontrolled and seeming unregulated reach of online gambling firms resulting to the commission of crimes specific to and related as such to online gambling addiction.

In light of these developments, the President has seen fit to forbid the continued operations of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators, while calls for the restrictions on online gambling such as prohibitions on the use of e-wallets are being considered due to the “grave abuse” of laws committed by the industry.

This bill therefore seeks to address the calls for the total ban on online gambling platforms in the Philippines to ensure that children's welfare is protected, stability of families is strengthened as we continue to uphold the dignity of our communities.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sittie Shahara', is positioned above the printed name.

SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City, Lone District



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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 "Anti-Online Gambling Act of 2025."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to promote the moral, psychological, and economic well-being of its citizens. In view of the increasing and pervasive harm caused by online gambling, particularly among the youth and low-income families, the State shall prohibit all forms of online gambling activities, advertisements, operations, and financial facilitation in the interest of public welfare.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms — As used in this Act:

- (a) Online Gambling refers to any gambling activity, including betting, gaming, or wagering on games of chance or skill conducted through the internet, mobile applications, or any other digital platform.
- (b) *Operator* refers to any person, natural or juridical, including corporations, partnerships, or other entities, that facilitates, manages, provides infrastructure for, or profits from online gambling services either directly or indirectly.
- (c) Advertisement refers to any form of communication, publication, or broadcast whether visual, audio, print, or digital—that promotes, markets, sponsors, or otherwise induces participation in online gambling.
- (d) Digital Financial Service Provider refers to mobile wallets, payment gateways, financial technology companies, and digital or electronic banking platforms that facilitate deposits, transfers, or withdrawals related to online gambling.

- (e) Whistleblower refers to any individual who voluntarily provides truthful, credible, and original information regarding a violation of this Act, which leads to a successful investigation or prosecution.
- (f) Responsible Officers refer to directors, trustees, partners, managers, and other individuals in positions of authority in a juridical entity who had actual knowledge of, participated in, or failed to prevent the commission of any act prohibited under this Act.
- (g) Player refers to any person who participates in online gambling activities by directly engaging in a game, match, or any other gambling format whether through skill or chance. Bettor refers to any person who places money, stakes, or items of value on the outcome of an event, game, or activity facilitated through online gambling platforms, regardless of whether the outcome depends on skill or chance. refers to directors, trustees, partners, managers, and other individuals in positions of authority in a juridical entity who had actual knowledge of, participated in, or failed to prevent the commission of any act prohibited under this Act.

SEC. 4. *Prohibited Acts* — The following acts are hereby declared unlawful:

- (a) Operating, maintaining, or offering online gambling platforms or services within or accessible in the Philippines;
- (b) Advertising, promoting, or marketing any online gambling service through any media platform, including digital, print, and broadcast channels;
- (c) Facilitating payments, deposits, or withdrawals related to online gambling through digital financial platforms;
- (d) Participating in online gambling activities, whether as a player, bettor, or facilitator.

SEC. 5. *Penalties.* —

- (a) Any person found guilty of violating Section 4(a) shall suffer imprisonment of up to twelve (12) years and a fine of up to Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.
- (b) Any media platform, publisher, or advertising entity that violates Section 4(b) shall be fined not less than Two Million Pesos (Php 2,000,000.00) and face suspension of business operations.
- (c) Any digital financial service provider that violates Section 4(c) shall be subject to administrative sanctions by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), including license revocation.

- (d) Any individual who violates Section 4(d) shall undergo mandatory rehabilitation and community service, without prejudice to other penalties under existing laws.

If the offender is a corporation, partnership, or juridical entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon its responsible officers, directors, or managing partners who knowingly authorized, allowed, or tolerated the commission of the offense. In addition, the entity may face:

- (1) Revocation of its license to operate;
- (2) Permanent ban from conducting business in the Philippines;
- (3) Forfeiture of assets used in or derived from the prohibited activity;
- (4) Blacklisting from all government contracts and franchises.

The imposition of penalties under this section shall be without prejudice to the civil, criminal, or administrative liability of the offender under other existing laws, rules, or regulations.

SEC. 6. *Enforcement.* — The Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall coordinate to identify, block, and take down online gambling platforms. PAGCOR and BSP shall assist in enforcing penalties and monitoring financial compliance.

To enhance enforcement and public cooperation, a confidential whistleblower mechanism shall be established under the DOJ, enabling individuals to report violations of this Act anonymously. Whistleblowers who provide substantial leads that result in a conviction shall be entitled to protective measures and may be granted incentives pursuant to existing laws.

Digital platforms, telecommunications providers, and financial institutions shall be required to report any suspicious gambling-related activity to the appropriate authorities and cooperate in investigations as necessary. Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall coordinate to identify, block, and take down online gambling platforms. PAGCOR and BSP shall assist in enforcing penalties and monitoring financial compliance.

SEC. 7. *Transition Period.* — All existing online gambling operators shall wind down operations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. Failure to do so shall result in immediate criminal prosecution and forfeiture of assets.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOJ, in coordination with DICT, BSP, PAGCOR, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

APPROVED.