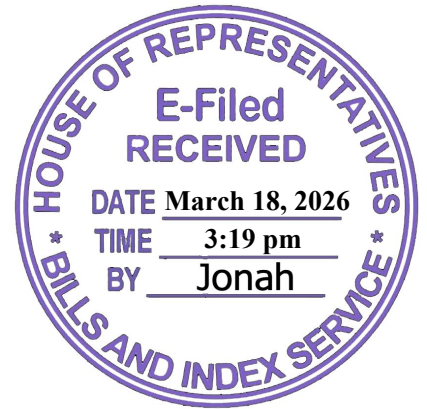


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8657



Introduced by REP. EMMANUEL L. IWAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree No. 449, as amended by PD 1802-A, and the Local Government Code of 1991, authorize the city and municipal governments to establish and operate cockpits, and to license and regulate regular cockfighting.

While the provisions of existing laws are plain, there are challenges in implementation due to the apparent conflict between customs and laws caused mainly by the unavailability and inaccessibility of accredited cockpit facilities in many barangay communities. As a result, barangay communities have held, for instance, fiesta cockfighting activities outside of formally sanctioned venues. This reality presents ongoing challenges with respect to both regulatory compliance and the protection of public welfare.

It is, thus, wise to revisit and update PD 449, and its amending laws. This bill seeks to amend Section 5(d) of P.D. No. 449 to permit cockfighting during barangay fiestas in temporary designated areas, provided that the dates of the fiestas are duly certified. It proposes to grant the Barangay Chairperson the authority to issue permits for such events, thereby recognizing local customs while reinforcing regulatory oversight.

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


REP. EMMANUEL L. IWAY
First District, Negros Oriental

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8657

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AN ACT

**FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 449, ALSO KNOWN AS THE
COCKFIGHTING LAW OF 1974, AS AMENDED, AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.
1802-A, EMPOWERING THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSON IN THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE REGULATION OF COCKFIGHTING DURING
BARANGAY FIESTAS**

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

SECTION 1. Section 5(d) of Presidential Decree No. 449 is hereby amended to
read as follows:

“Section 5. Cockpits and Cockfighting: In General:

“(a) x x x;

“(b) x x x;

“(c) x x x;

“(d) Holding of Cockfights.—Except as provided in this Decree, cockfighting shall be allowed only in licensed cockpits during Sundays and legal holidays and during local fiestas for not more than three days, it may also be held during provincial, city or municipal agricultural, commercial or industrial fair, carnival or exposition for a similar period of three days upon resolution of the province, city or municipality where such fair, carnival or exposition is to be held, subject to the approval of the Chief of Constabulary or his authorized representative: Provided that, no cockfighting on the occasion of such a fair, carnival or exposition shall be allowed with the month of a local fiesta or for more than two occasions a year in the same city or municipality: Provided, further, That no cockfighting shall be held on December 30 (Rizal Day), June 12 (Philippine Independence Day) November 30 (National Heroes Day), Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Election or Referendum Day and during Registration Days for such election or referendum.

HOWEVER, DURING BARANGAY FIESTAS, SPECIAL COCKFIGHTS MAY BE ALLOWED FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED TWO (2) DAYS, AND MAY BE HELD EITHER IN A LICENSED COCKPIT OR IN ANY SECURE PLACE IN THE SAID BARANGAY IDENTIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR COCKFIGHTING, AND WHICH GUARANTEES THE SAFETY OF THE SPECTATORS, BETTORS, COCKFIGHTING OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC; PROVIDED, THAT NO SPECIAL COCKFIGHT MAY BE HELD MORE THAN ONCE EVERY CALENDAR YEAR IN A BARANGAY OR ON THE DAYS IN WHICH COCKFIGHTING IS PROHIBITED AS STATED IN THIS ACT; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT WHERE THE VENUE IS OTHER THAN A LICENSED COCKPIT, THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSON SHALL SPECIFY THE PRECISE AREA IN THE BARANGAY WHERE THE COCKFIGHTING SHALL BE HELD, FOLLOWING THE CERTIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL FIESTA DATES; AND PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE BARANGAY IN WHICH THE SPECIAL COCKFIGHT IS HELD, MAY IMPOSE SUCH TAXES OR FEES AS MAY BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL REVENUE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS;

“(e) x x x; and

“(f) x x x.

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 1802-A, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 4. City and Municipal Mayors with the concurrence of their respective “Sanggunians” shall have the authority to license and regulate regular cockfighting pursuant to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission and subject to its review and supervision, EXCEPT IN CASES OF SPECIAL COCKFIGHTS DURING BARANGAY FIESTAS WHERE THE VENUE IS OTHER THAN A LICENSED COCKPIT. IN SUCH CASES, THE BARANGAY CHAIRPERSON SHALL CERTIFY THE PRECISE AREA WHERE THE COCKFIGHTING SHALL BE HELD, FOLLOWING THE CERTIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL FIESTA DATES.”

SEC. 3. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with the concerned barangays in local government units, shall form a technical working group to develop a comprehensive framework and establish the necessary rules and regulations, for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. In the event that any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,