

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11280**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to regulate the ownership and use of drones by private individuals. It authorizes the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) to regulate drone registration and operation and addresses public safety concerns arising from the increasing use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

While the CAAP has adopted regulations governing drone registration, certification, and flight limitations, these remain administrative in nature and do not cover private ownership, accountability of registered owners, and enforcement of violations. The institutionalization of such regulations is necessary to provide a more stable and enforceable basis for regulating private drone ownership and use.

The proposed measure requires all privately owned drones to register with the CAAP and subjects commercial operations to a permit-to-operate requirement. It also provides CAAP with authority to establish no-drone zones, prescribe operational standards, and impose measures responsive to developments in drone technology. It likewise provides penalties for violations of safety regulations and imposes responsibility for damage, injury, or loss which shall result from its negligent, reckless, or unlawful operation.

Drones have become valuable tools in various industries and activities, but their increasing accessibility requires corresponding safeguards to protect public safety and individual rights. A single irresponsible operation can compromise airspace security and infringe upon personal privacy. The establishment of clear rules for drone ownership and use shall build public confidence in the safe adoption of emerging technologies.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
REGULATING THE OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF DRONES BY
PRIVATE PERSONS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS
THEREOF

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*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and protect public safety, national security, and individual rights. The State recognizes the commercial, recreational, and other lawful uses of drone technology. Towards this end, the State shall ensure that its regulation does not unduly impede its beneficial applications and development.

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

- a. Drone refers to an unmanned aerial vehicle or any component of an unmanned aerial system that has no pilot and is controlled by an operator on the ground. The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) is authorized by this Act to classify drones into types for the purpose of regulation;
- b. Private persons refer to natural or juridical persons not employed by or part of the Government;
- c. Commercial drone use refers to any use of a drone in connection with a business or profession for the sake of profit, whether the profit is the primary purpose of the drone use or merely an incidental result; and
- d. Hobbyist drone use refers to the use of drones for recreational purposes where no profit is made from the use of drones.

SEC. 4. *Registration and Permit to Operate.* – All drone owners, whether the drones are for hobbyist or commercial use, are hereby required to periodically register their drones with the CAAP's Public Safety and Security Command Center. Only a registered commercial drone owner may apply for a permit to operate, which shall be issued periodically upon proof that the owner:

- a. Qualifies for a radio operator's certificate of proficiency;
- b. Has been awarded a passing rating in an aviation license theory examination;
- c. Has completed a training course in the operation of the type of drone that will be operated;
- d. Has at least five (5) hours of experience operating drones outside of controlled airspace;
- e. Has valid insurance over the drone; and
- f. Has not incurred any violation for drone ownership or use in the five (5) years immediately preceding an application for a permit.

The operator's permit to operate shall cover all registered drones of the same type. The Authority is hereby authorized to collect reasonable fees for the registration of drones and processing of permits to operate the drones.

SEC. 5. *Establishment of No-Drone Zone.* – The CAAP is hereby authorized to prohibit the use of drones, whether hobbyist, commercial, or both, in any part of the Philippines; whether permanently, or for a designated period of time, subject to notice that must be published in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

The notice must clearly state the no-drone zone and must be published at least three (3) weeks prior to the effectivity of the prohibition. Notice can only be foregone in emergency situations, as determined by the CAAP.

This power is without prejudice to the power of other government agencies to regulate airspace, particularly in emergency situations that may require the establishment of no-fly zones.

SEC. 6. *General Safety Regulations and Restrictions on Drone Usage.* – The CAAP shall periodically update and publish safety regulations and restrictions on drone usage, the violation of which shall be the basis for revocation of the permit to operate and confiscation of the drone, without prejudice to the penalties provided in this Act, and any civil or criminal suits that may be filed as a result of the violation. These safety regulations and restrictions shall include:

- a. Requiring all drones, whether for hobbyist or commercial use, to be clearly marked with the name, contact number, and address of the owner;

- b. Prohibiting the use of drones as a means to violate constitutional rights, including the right to privacy;
- c. Prohibiting drones flying above four hundred (400) feet;
- d. Prohibiting drones from flying near aircraft, particularly near airports;
- e. Allowing drone operation only during daylight hours and in good weather, subject to exceptions to be crafted by CAAP;
- f. Prohibiting drones from flying over groups of people, public events, or stadiums full of people, subject to exceptions to be crafted by CAAP;
- g. Prohibiting drones from flying near emergencies, such as fires;
- h. Prohibiting drones from flying under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- i. For recreational drone use, requiring an operator to keep the drone within the operator's line of sight; and
- j. Other regulations as the CAAP may see fit to introduce in the interest of public safety, such as further restriction on types of drones as classified by the CAAP.

SEC. 7. *Penalties.* – Failure to register a drone shall result in the confiscation of the drone. Operating a drone for commercial purposes without a permit shall result in the confiscation of the drone and a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00).

Any violation of the general safety regulations and restrictions on drone usage shall result in a fine of not less than hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php 500,000.00), without prejudice to any separate civil or criminal charges that may be brought against the drone owner and/or operator for any injury or damage resulting from the violation.

SEC. 8. *Liability of the Registered Owner.* – The registered owner of a drone shall be responsible for any violation of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations committed through the use of the registered drone, unless the owner proves that the drone was used without his or her knowledge, consent, or authority.

The registered owner shall be liable for any damage, injury, or loss caused to persons or property resulting from the negligent, reckless, or unlawful operation of the drone, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate civil, criminal, or administrative actions against the responsible person.

In cases where the registered drone has been transferred, sold, leased, or otherwise assigned to another person, the registered owner shall immediately report

such transfer to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) and comply with the required registration update procedures. Failure to report the transfer shall render the registered owner accountable for violations committed through the continued use of the drone.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The CAAP shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90) days from the date of effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Retroactivity.* – This Act shall have retroactive effect. All drone owners who have not yet registered their drones or obtained permits to operate their drone are given one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act to register and obtain permits without sanction.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provision of this Act shall not be affected by such declarations.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All law, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,