



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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. **6545**

Introduced by Representatives
FRANZ JOSEF "CHICOY" G. ALVAREZ
AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.
JOSE GAY G. PADIERNOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cockfighting is an expression of our cultural heritage. Filipinos have enjoyed cockfighting or *sabong* even before the Spaniards arrived.

Presidential Decree No. 449 or the Cockfighting Law of 1974 has already foreseen the commercialization and pernicious effects of cockfighting on the morals of our society. Nowadays, every group with a camera has been able to exploit the latest technology and has illegally broadcast live cockfights for online betting by the public. Just recently, the Bureau of Internal Revenue closed down illegal betting stations because of non-payment of taxes.

With the advent in technology, a gaping hole in the regulation of cockfighting has been exposed. The power given to local government units did not envision the proliferation of online cockfighting which transcends municipal boundaries. The Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corporation (PAGCOR), the agency tasked with regulating all games of chance, is hampered by its limited powers over online cockfighting. Thus, the imperative need in further empowering PAGCOR to deal with the menace of online gaming based on cockfighting.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. FRANZ JOSEF "CHICOY" G. ALVAREZ
Representative, 1st District, Palawan


HON. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.
Representative, 3rd District, Pampanga


HON. JOSE GAY G. PADIERNOS
Representative, Galing sa Puso Partylist



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AN ACT
FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1869, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE PAGCOR FRANCHISE, PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR THE
REGULATION OF OFF-COCKPIT, ELECTRONIC, AND ONLINE GAMES BASED
ON COCKFIGHTING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) franchise
2 granted under Presidential Decree No. 1869, is hereby further amended to read as follows:
3

4 "SEC. 10. *Nature and Term of Franchise.* – Subject to the terms and conditions
5 established in this Decree, the Corporation is hereby granted from the expiration of its
6 original term on July 11, 2008, another period of twenty-five (25) years, renewable for
7 another twenty-five (25) years, the rights, privileges and authority to operate and license
8 gambling casinos, gaming clubs and other similar recreation or amusement places,
9 gaming pools, *i.e.* basketball, football, bingo, etc. except jai-alai, whether on land or
10 sea, within the territorial jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines: *Provided*, That
11 the corporation shall obtain the consent of the local government unit that has territorial
12 jurisdiction over the area chosen as the site for any of its operations.
13

14 "The operation of slot machines and other gambling paraphernalia and equipment, shall
15 not be allowed in establishments open or accessible to the general public unless the site
16 of these operations are three-star hotels and resorts accredited by the Department of
17 Tourism authorized by the corporation and by the local government unit concerned.
18

19 "The authority and power of the PAGCOR to authorize, license and regulate games of
20 chance, games of cards and games of numbers shall not extend to: (1) games of chance
21 authorized, licensed and regulated or to be authorized, licensed and regulated by, in,
22 and under existing franchises or other regulatory bodies; (2) games of chance, games
23 of cards and games of numbers authorized, licensed, regulated by, in, and under special
24 laws such as Republic Act No. 7922; and (3) games of chance, games of cards and

1 games of numbers like cockfighting, authorized, licensed and regulated by local
2 government units. The conduct of such games of chance, games of cards and games of
3 numbers covered by existing franchises, regulatory bodies or special laws, to the extent
4 of the jurisdiction and powers granted under such franchises and special laws, shall be
5 outside the licensing authority and regulatory powers of the PAGCOR: *PROVIDED*,
6 THAT ALL ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OR
7 MAINTENANCE OF REMOTE, OFF-COCKPIT, ELECTRONIC, AND ONLINE
8 GAMES BASED ON COCKFIGHTING, INCLUDING ITS BROADCASTING OR
9 LIVESTREAMING, THE PLACING AND ACCEPTING OF AND PAYMENTS OF
10 WAGERS OR BETS REMOTELY, OFF-TRACK, OFFSHORE, ELECTRONIC,
11 ONLINE OR OF ANY SIMILAR MEANS WHICH MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN
12 THE FUTURE, AMONG OTHERS, WHETHER LOCAL OR OFFSHORE, WIL BE
13 UNDER THE EXCLUSIVE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE PAGCOR,
14 SUBJECT TO RULES THAT IT MAY PROMULGATE ON THE MATTER.”
15

16 **Section 2. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared
17 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain
18 in full force and effect.
19

20 **Section 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and
21 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of
22 this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
23

24 **Section 4. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its
25 publication, upon the initiative of the grantee, in the Official Gazette or in at least two
26 newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.
27

28 ***Approved,***