

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1226



---

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES ENRICO A. PINEDA and  
MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO, PhD.

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

As in anywhere in the world, sports, competitive and otherwise, is a popular pastime for Filipinos, be them as spectators or the players themselves. Next tour wide menu of primetime telenovelas, professional basketball and volleyball games have been enticing viands of entertainment for Filipinos. Not a day would pass when a game or two is broadcasted over national television to the excitement of fans and audiences.

The increasing popularity of sports particularly of basketball and volleyball seem to have opened the opportunity for some enterprising individuals to make extra money by betting on its results. As one who doesn't want to be on the losing end, almost always, people would find means to influence the results most especially if the stakes are high. When praying to their favored saints and dancing to their colorful lucky charms do not deliver, game fixing comes into play.

There are many reported cases of game fixing in Philippine Sports. Allegedly, it was the cause of the supposed hit on an athlete who, according to stories, did not perform the way he had been arranged he would. One professional basketball player called the attention of the public that there is game fixing in his sport. Despite circumstances that would point to game fixing as a reality in sports, legislation has yet to deal severely with this reprehensible act which most definitely affects adversely the competitive spirit of Filipino sport. In this regard, this bill seeks to expand the elements and acts constituting the crime of game fixing and prescribe stiffer penalties, while promoting fair and competitive conduct of sports in the country.

This proposed bill was filed in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, underwent thorough deliberations and was subsequently passed on the Third Reading. Hence, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly prayed for.

  
ENRICO A. PINEDA  
1PACMAN

  
MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO, PhD  
1PACMAN

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1226

---

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES ENRICO A. PINEDA and  
MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO, PhD.

---

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

**AN ACT REDEFINING THE CRIME OF GAME FIXING AND PRESCRIBING  
STIFFER PENALTIES THEREFOR**

**SECTION 1. Short title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Game Fixing Act”.

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to promote the growth and development of sports in the country and protect the youth from the influence of persons who, through fraudulent schemes and machinations, engage in the practice of game fixing, point shaving and other nefarious practices that subvert the spirit of sportsmanship and competitive sports among Filipino athletes.

**SECTION 3. Game-Fixing.** Game Fixing refers to any act or series of acts, wherein any person or persons, maliciously conducts or cause to be conducted any professional or amateur sports other than on the basis of honest playing skill or ability of the players or participants.

It shall include any arrangement, agreement or scheme wherein the skill or ability of any player or participant in a game, sport, race or sports competition shall be limited deliberately in order to influence the process or to produce a predetermined result.

The payment or receipt of money or valuable consideration shall constitute a prima facie evidence of game-fixing.

**SECTION 4. Other Forms of Game-Fixing.** – Game-fixing as defined in Section 3 hereof, shall likewise include the following acts:

- a. Point-shaving refers to any such arrangement, combination, scheme or agreement by which the skill or ability of any player or participant in a game, race or sports competition to make points or scores shall be limited deliberately in order to influence the result thereof in favor of one or the other team, player or participant therein.
- b. Game machination refer to any other fraudulent, deceitful, unfair or dishonest means, method, manner or practice employed for the purpose of influencing the result of any game, race or sports contest.

Game-Fixing in any of the forms defined in Sections 3 and 4 of this Act is hereby declared unlawful.

**SECTION 5. Proposal, Attempt, and Conspiracy to Commit Game-Fixing.** A proposal, attempt, or conspiracy to commit game-fixing shall be punishable with the same penalty prescribed under this Act.

**SECTION 6. Covered Sports.** – As used in this Act, game-fixing may only be committed in the following sports:

- a. Professional sports shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest, bouts, tournament or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money or other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which are licensed, accredited and recognized by the Games and Amusements Board.
- b. Amateur sports shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contests, bouts, tournaments or competitions, including collegiate leagues conducted by the public or private schools athletic associations, whereby the participant is engaged largely or entirely without remuneration: Provided, however, the local government unit (LGU)-sponsored, sanctioned or organized sports events or competitions shall not be covered in this Act.

**SECTION 7. Penalties.** – The following penalties are hereby imposed on the acts of game-fixing as herein described:

- a. The penalty of imprisonment from three (3) years to six (6) years or a fine of not less than One Million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00), or both at the discretion of the court shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of any offense defined herein;
- b. The penalty of imprisonment from six (6) years to twelve (12) years or a fine of not less than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00), or both at the discretion of the court, when the offender is an athlete, promoter, referee, umpire, judge, coach in the game, race or sports competition, or any other sports official;
- c. The maximum penalty provided shall be imposed upon any person who pays or receives money or any other valuable consideration in furtherance of the crime of game-fixing.

*Provided*, That if the offender is a public officer, whether elected or appointed, an additional penalty of perpetual disqualification from holding any public office or employment shall be imposed: *Provided further*, That if the violation is committed by a partnership, corporation, association or any juridical entity, the partner, president, director, manager, trustee, estate administrator, or officer, who consents to or knowingly tolerates such violation, shall be held criminally liable as a principal: *Provided finally*, That if the offender is an alien, the same penalties shall be applied and the offender shall be deported only after service of sentence.

**SECTION 8. Perpetual Disqualification from Participation in Amateur and**



**Professional Sports.** The following persons shall be perpetually disqualified to participate in any capacity in any sports in the country:

- a.) Those engaged in professional sports if found guilty of game-fixing; and
- b.) Those engaged in amateur sports if found guilty of game-fixing for the second time

The Philippine Sports Commission, Games and Amusements Board, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and other concerned agencies shall be served copies of the decision and order disqualifying a person from participation in any capacity in any sports in the country.

**SECTION 9. Roles of Concerned Agencies.** – The following agencies and instrumentalities shall be tasked to do the following in implementing Section 8 of this Act:

- a.) Game and Amusements Board shall revoke the license of professional athletes and other sports officials;
- b.) Philippine Sports Commission shall remove athletes from the national team, including coaches and other sports officials, and ban athletes from participating in any amateur sports competitions locally and abroad;
- c.) Department of Education shall ban primary and secondary student-athletes including coaches and officiating staff, from participating in Palarong Pambansa and other DepEd-sponsored, sanctioned or organized sports events or competitions;
- d.) Philippine Olympic Committee / National Sports Associations shall remove athletes, coaches and other sports officials from their respective rosters;
- e.) Athletic associations shall disqualify athletes, coaches and other sports officials from participating in any inter-school athletic programs and competitions; and
- f.) Schools shall disqualify athletes, coaches and other sports officials from representing the school to any sports events.

The concerned agencies shall coordinate and monitor the strict implementation of the accessory penalty provided under Section 8.

**SECTION 10. Immunity from Prosecution and Punishment.** – Any person who voluntarily discloses, testifies, or assists in the prosecution of any of the offenses penalized herein shall be exempted from prosecution or punishment prescribed herein: Provided, That any person who has witnessed or has knowledge or information on the commission of a crime and has testified or is testifying or about to testify before any judicial or quasi-judicial body, or before any investigating authority, may be admitted into the “Witness Protection, Security and Benefic Act” as provided under Republic Act No. 6981.

**SECTION 11. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 12. Repealing Clause.** – The provisions on game-fixing, point-shaving and game machinations in sports contests under Sections 1 to 4 of Presidential Decree No. 483, as amended, pertinent provisions of Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1602, and all other laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or

repealed accordingly

**SECTION 13. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,