

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3515**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The late Representative Pedro P. Romualdo originally filed this bill in the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress. This bill was then re-filed in the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Illegal gambling is a universally recognized social ill that is known to result in the squandering of income and the disintegration of families, lead to the commission of crimes, and is a source of corruption. Hence, the State condemns and criminalizes illegal gambling activities. However, despite the campaign against illegal gambling, it continues to subsist and remain prevalent in the country.

The suppression of illegal gambling will require a comprehensive approach from and the joint efforts of both the government and the public. In the meantime, Congress should adopt more stringent measures against illegal gambling as part of its contribution to the campaign against the same. This proposed measure is a step in that direction as it seeks to increase the penalties against those who engage in illegal gambling activities. The imposition of heavier penalties will show the seriousness with which Congress views the problem of illegal gambling and is in fulfillment of Congress's responsibility of ensuring that the laws of the land are able to meet and respond to the challenges of the present times.

Hence, the favorable support of the Members of Congress for the prompt and timely passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO**

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING SECTION 1 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1602, PRESCRIBING**  
**STIFFER PENALTIES ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING**

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

1       SECTION 1. Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1602 is hereby amended, as follows:

2  
3       Section 1. Penalties. The following penalties are hereby imposed:

4  
5       (a) The penalty of prision correccional in its [medium] MAXIMUM  
6       period [or] AND a fine ranging from FIFTY THOUSAND  
7       (P50,000.00) TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (P100,000.00)  
8       PESOS, and in cases of recidivism, the penalty of prision mayor in its  
9       [medium] MAXIMUM period [or] AND a fine ranging from [five  
10       thousand to ten thousand] ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND  
11       (P100,000.00) TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND  
12       (P150,000.00) PESOS shall be imposed upon:

13  
14       (1) XXX

15  
16       (2) Any person who shall knowingly permit any form of gambling  
17       referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph to be carried on in an  
18       inhabited or uninhabited place or in any building, vessel or other  
19       means of transportation owned or controlled by him. If the place

1 where gambling is carried on has a reputation of a gambling place  
2 or that prohibited gambling is frequently carried on therein, or the  
3 place is or government building or barangay hall, the malefactor  
4 shall be punished by [prision correccional] PRISION MAYOR in  
5 its [maximum] MINIMUM period and a fine of [six thousand]  
6 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P150,000.00).

7  
8 (b) The penalty of [prision correccional in its maximum] PRISION  
9 MAYOR IN ITS MEDIUM period [or] AND a fine of [six thousand]  
10 TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) shall be  
11 imposed upon the maintainer or conductor of the above gambling  
12 schemes.

13  
14 (c) The penalty of prision mayor in its [medium] MAXIMUM period with  
15 [temporary] PERPETUAL absolute disqualification [or] AND a fine of  
16 [six thousand] TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P  
17 200,000.00) shall be imposed if the maintainer, conductor or banker of  
18 said gambling schemes is a government official, or where such  
19 government official is a player, promoter, referee, umpire, judge or  
20 coach in case of game-fixing, point-shaving and machination.

21  
22 (d) The penalty of prision correccional in its (medium) MAXIMUM  
23 period [or] AND a fine ranging from (four hundred to two thousand)  
24 TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) TO FIFTY  
25 THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person  
26 who shall, knowingly and without lawful purpose in any hour or any  
27 day, possess any lottery list, paper pertaining to or in any manner used  
28 in the games of jueteng, jai alai or horse racing, bookings, and similar  
29 games of lotteries and numbers which have taken place or about to  
30 take place.

1  
2 (e) The penalty of [temporary] PERMANENT absolute disqualification  
3 shall be imposed upon any barangay official who with knowledge of  
4 existence of a gambling house or place in his jurisdiction fails to abate  
5 the same or take action in connection herewith.  
6

7 (f) The penalty of prision [correccional] MAYOR in its [maximum]  
8 MINIMUM period [or] AND a fine ranging from [five hundred pesos  
9 to two thousand pesos] TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00)  
10 TO FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) shall be imposed upon  
11 any security, security guard, watchman, private or house detective of  
12 hotels, villages, buildings, enclosures, and the like which have the  
13 reputation of a gambling place or where gambling activities are being  
14 held.  
15

16 SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders and issuances, rules and regulations, and  
17 other issuances, or parts thereof, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
18 repealed or modified accordingly.  
19

20 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official  
21 Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.  
22  
23

24 Approved,