

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5953



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Introduced by: Congressman BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This Bill seeks to prohibit the operation of cockpits in places near schools and other education institutions, churches, and hospitals.

We have declared in the very Preamble of our Constitution that we are imploring the aid of Almighty God in order to build a just and humane society and establish a Government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations. God is not a God of chance but a God of design, of truth, of purpose, and of assurance. Gambling renders meaningless the *State Policies* to: promote a just and dynamic social order to free the people from poverty through a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life; protect and strengthen the family; support the natural and primary duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and development of moral character; and to promote the moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the youth. It runs counter to the *mandate of the State* to educational institutions to strengthen ethical and spiritual values and develop moral character and personal discipline.

We cannot: improve the quality of life; strengthen the family; develop moral character; promote spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of our youth; strengthen ethical and spiritual values; and develop

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personal discipline, while operating cockpits, near schools and other education institutions, churches, and hospitals.

Cock-fighting, and other forms of gambling, encourages wastefulness, thriftlessness, and a belief that a livelihood may be earned by means other than honest toil and industry. God has given the injunction for men to work,

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when he said *"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground"* [Genesis 3:19, KJV] and *"If any would not work, neither should he eat"* [11 Thessalonians 3:10, KJV]. Let us heed the warning that: *"He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him"* [Proverbs 28:22, KJV] and *"the love of money is the root of all evil"* [1 Timothy 6:10, KJV].

Gambling, is an evil which undermines the social and economic growth of the nation, a social menace which dissipates the energy and resources of the people. It promotes laziness and nurtures a false hope of advancement by luck rather than hard work. Let us be warned that: *"He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich shall surely come to want"* [Proverbs 22:16, KJV].

Let us accept the reality that gambling does not lift the people from the quagmire of poverty, but rather pulls them down deeper into slavery and uselessness. Thus, this Bill seeks to particularly prohibit the establishment and operation of cockpits near schools and other educational institutions, churches and other places of worship, and hospitals.

The immediate passage of this Bill is, earnestly pleaded.



BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.



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**AN ACT**

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF COCKPITS AND OTHER STRUCTURES OR FACILITIES FOR HOLDING COCKFIGHTS NEAR SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, CHURCH BUILDINGS AND OTHER PLACES OF WORSHIP, AND HOSPITALS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE.

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

SECTION 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the “Cockpit Regulation Law of 2019”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the Policy of the State to ensure that schools and other educational institutions, church buildings and other places of worship, as well as hospitals, are free from the distractions, temptation, and undesirable and unproductive influence of human activities that are not conducive or runs counter to the development of spiritual, moral and social well-being and development of the people, especially the youth. Thus, the State hereby prohibits the establishment and operation of cockpits and other facilities or structures

used or intended to be used for cockfights, and conducting cockfights, in areas near schools and other educational institutions, church buildings and other places of worship, as well as hospitals.

SEC. 3. *Definition.* – Cockpit shall mean any building, structure or facility used or intended to be used for cockfights.

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SEC. 4. *Punishable Acts.* – (a) The following are declared illegal, prohibited and punishable under this Act when done or conducted within a radius of five (500) meters from a school or other educational institution, church buildings or other places of worship, or hospital:

1. Constructing, operating or managing a cockpit or other building, structure or facility intended to be used for holding cockfights;
2. Conducting cockfights in any place; and
3. Betting or collecting bets in, or participating in any other manner in the conduct of, a cockfight in any place.

(b) the following are likewise declared illegal, prohibited and punishable under this Act:

1. Approving, issuing, or facilitating in any manner the approval or issuance, of permits to construct, make or erect, cockpits, or other buildings, structures or facilities intended for holding cockfights, when such building, structure or facility to be constructed, made or erected is within the prohibited place; and
3. Approving, issuing or facilitating in any manner the approval or issuance, of permits to conduct or hold cockfights in such cockpits, buildings, structures or facilities or other places prohibited under this Act.





SEC. 5 *Penalties.* - Violations of the provisions of this Act shall be punished as follows:

a. Constructing, operating or managing a cockpit or other building, facility or structure intended for holding cockfights in violation of this Act shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than five (5) years nor more than seven (7) years and a fine of not less than five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00) nor more than One Million Pesos (Php1,000,000.00), at the discretion of the Court;

b. Conducting cockfights in any place prohibited under this Act shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than four (4) years nor more than six (6) years and a fine of not less than four hundred thousand pesos (Php400,000.00) nor more than six hundred thousand pesos (Php600,000.00), at the discretion of the Court;

c. Betting or collecting bets in, or participating in any other manner in the conduct of, a cockfight conducted in any place in violation of this Act

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shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than three (3) years nor more than five (5) years and a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00) nor more than three hundred thousand pesos (Php300,000.00), at the discretion of the Court;

d. Approving, issuing, or facilitating in any manner the approval or issuance, of permits to construct, make or erect, cockpits, or other buildings, structures or facilities intended for holding cockfights, when such building, structure or facility to be constructed, made or erected is within the place prohibited under this Act shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than four (4) years nor more than six (6) years and a fine of not less than four hundred thousand pesos (Php400,000.00) nor more than six hundred thousand pesos (Php600,000.00), at the discretion of the Court;

e. Approving, issuing, or facilitating in any manner the approval or issuance of, permits to conduct or hold cockfights in such cockpits,

buildings, structures or facilities or other places prohibited under this Act shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than three (3) years nor more than five (5) years and a fine of not less than two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00) nor more than three hundred thousand pesos (Php300,000.00), at the discretion of the Court;

In case the prohibited act is committed by a corporation, the president, chairman of the board, and general manager of the corporation shall be held liable for such act. In the case of a partnership, the managing partner shall be held liable.

SEC. 6. *Liability of Government Employees and Public Officials.* – If the prohibited act is committed by a government employee or public official, he shall, in addition to the penalties provided for in this Act, be dismissed from his employment and shall be disqualified from re-employment in any government office. In addition, all his retirement benefits shall be forfeited in favor of the government.

SEC. 7 – *Immunity from Prosecution.* – Any person who serves as a witness for the government or provides evidence in a criminal case involving any violation of this Act, or who voluntarily or by virtue of a subpoena *testificandum* or *duces tecum*, produces, identifies, or gives testimony on, the documents subject of or embraced in such subpoena, shall be immune from criminal prosecution, subject to compliance with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1732, otherwise known as “Decree Providing Immunity from Criminal Prosecution of Government Witnesses” and the pertinent provisions of the Rules of Court;

SEC. 8. *Prosecution, Judgment and Forfeiture.* – Any person may be charged with or convicted of the offenses covered by this Act without prejudice to his prosecution and punishment for any act or acts penalized under the Revised penal Code or other existing laws.

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Upon conviction, all buildings or other structures or facilities constructed or used in violation of this Act, and the proceeds of cockfights conducted, including all instruments of the crime, real or personal, shall be confiscated and forfeited in favor of the government and may be disposed of



SEC. 9. Any person who provides material, competent and relevant information, whether testimonial or documentary, necessary for the investigation or successful prosecution of cases committed in violation of this Act may be placed under the Witness Protection Program pursuant to Republic Act No. 6981.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, DOJ, NAPOLCOM, and other concerned government agencies, shall jointly promulgate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason any section or provision of this Act, or any portion thereof, or the application of such section, provision or portion thereof to any person, group or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration and shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – The provisions of other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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