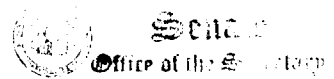


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )**



24 JAN 25 AM 11:53

**SENATE  
Senate Bill No. 2526**

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III**

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**AN ACT  
REGULATING THE OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF  
DRONES BY PRIVATE PERSONS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Over the last two decades, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles or “drones” has proliferated in various sectors of society. Drones are used for amateur photography, to increase crop production, and to conduct surveillance for military and law enforcement agencies.

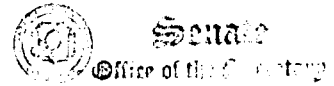
With this ubiquity comes the need for regulation. The same drones that are used for recreational and commercial purposes may be used to violate rights, exploited by terrorists, or pose a hazard to aircraft.

This measure was filed by the undersigned during the last two Congresses to ensure public safety by regulating the ownership and operation of drones in the Philippines.

Once again, in the interest of safeguarding the public, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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**AN ACT  
REGULATING THE OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF  
DRONES BY PRIVATE PERSONS**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State  
2 to regulate the ownership and operation of drones by private persons in  
3 order to ensure responsible use thereof and public safety.  
4

5           **SEC. 2. Coverage.** – This Act shall regulate only drones as  
6 defined herein, purchased, owned, and operated by private persons,  
7 whether used for hobbyist or commercial purposes. The use of drones  
8 by the Government shall not be subject to this Act.  
9

10           **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following  
11 terms shall mean:  
12

- 13           (1) “*Drone*” shall refer to an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or  
14 remotely piloted aircraft (RPA), or any component of an  
15 unmanned aerial system (UAS) or remotely piloted aircraft  
16 system (RPAS), that has no pilot and is controlled by an  
17 operator on the ground. The Civil Aviation Authority of the

1 Philippines (CAAP) is authorized by this Act to classify drones  
2 into types for the purpose of regulation.

3  
4 (2) *“Private persons”* shall refer to natural or juridical persons not  
5 employed by or part of the Government.

6  
7 (3) *“Commercial drone use”* is any use of a drone in connection  
8 with a business or profession for the sake of profit, whether the  
9 profit is the primary purpose of the drone use or merely an  
10 incidental result.

11  
12 (4) *“Hobbyist drone use”* is the use of drones for recreational  
13 purposes where no profit is made from the use of drones.

14  
15 **SEC. 4. *Registration and Permit to Operate.*** – All drone owners,  
16 whether the drones are for hobbyist or commercial use, are hereby  
17 required to periodically register themselves and their drones with the  
18 Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)’s Public Safety  
19 and Security Command Center.

20  
21 Only a registered commercial drone owner may apply for a permit  
22 to operate, which shall be issued periodically only upon proof that the  
23 owner:

24  
25 (1) Qualifies for a radio operator’s certificate of proficiency;

26  
27 (2) Has been awarded a passing rating in an aviation license theory  
28 examination;

29  
30 (3) Has completed a training course in the operation of the type of  
31 drone that will be operated;

32  
33 (4) Has at least five (5) hours of experience operating drones  
34 outside of controlled airspace;

35  
36 (5) Has valid insurance over the drone; and  
37

- 1 (6) Has not incurred any violations for drone ownership or use in  
2 the five (5) years immediately preceding an application for  
3 permit.  
4

5 The operator's permit to operate shall cover all registered drones  
6 of the same type.  
7

8 The CAAP is hereby authorized to collect reasonable fees for the  
9 registration of drones and processing of permits to operate the drones.  
10

11 **SEC. 5. *Establishment of No-Drone Zones.*** – The CAAP is  
12 hereby authorized to prohibit the use of drones, whether hobbyist or  
13 commercial or both, in any part of the Philippines, whether  
14 permanently or for a designated period of time, subject to notice that  
15 must be published in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.  
16 The notice must clearly delineate the no-drone zone and must be  
17 published at least three (3) weeks prior to the effectivity of the  
18 prohibition. Notice can only be foregone in emergency situations, as  
19 determined by the CAAP.  
20

21 This power is without prejudice to the power of other government  
22 agencies to regulate airspace, particularly in emergency situations that  
23 may require the establishment of no-fly zones.  
24

25 **SEC. 6. *General Safety Regulations and Restrictions on Drone***  
26 ***Usage.*** – The CAAP shall periodically update and publish safety  
27 regulations and restrictions on drone usage, the violation of which shall  
28 be basis for revocation of the permit to operate and confiscation of the  
29 drone, without prejudice to the penalties provided in this Act and any  
30 civil or criminal suits that may be filed as a result of the violation. These  
31 safety regulations and restrictions shall include:  
32

- 33 (1) Requiring all drones, whether for hobbyist or commercial use,  
34 to be clearly marked with a registration number and the name,  
35 contact number, and address of the owner;  
36

- 1 (2) Prohibiting the use of drones as a means to violate  
2 constitutional rights, including the right to privacy;  
3  
4 (3) A prohibition on flying drones above four hundred (400) feet  
5 above ground level;  
6  
7 (4) A prohibition on flying drones near other aircraft, particularly  
8 near airports;  
9  
10 (5) Allowing drone operation only during daylight hours and in  
11 good weather, subject to exceptions to be crafted by the  
12 CAAP;  
13  
14 (6) The prohibition on flying drones over groups of people, public  
15 events, public buildings and government structures, oil  
16 refineries and depots, or stadiums full of people, subject to  
17 exceptions to be crafted by the CAAP;  
18  
19 (7) The prohibition on flying drones near emergencies, such as  
20 fires;  
21  
22 (8) The prohibition on any person under the influence of drugs or  
23 alcohol against flying drones;  
24  
25 (9) For recreational drone use, requiring an operator to keep the  
26 drone within the operator's line of sight; and  
27  
28 (10) Other regulations as the CAAP may see fit to introduce in the  
29 interest of public safety, such as further restrictions on types of  
30 drones as classified by the CAAP.  
31

32 **SEC. 7. Penalties.** – Failure to register a drone and its owner shall  
33 result in the confiscation of the drone by the CAAP.  
34

35 Operating a drone for commercial purposes without a permit shall  
36 result in the confiscation of the drone and a fine of not less than Fifty

1 Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred  
2 Thousand Pesos (PhP100,000.00).

3  
4 Any violation of the general safety regulations and restrictions on  
5 drone usage shall result in a fine of not less than One Hundred  
6 Thousand Pesos (PhP100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred  
7 Thousand Pesos (PhP500,000.00), without prejudice to any separate  
8 civil or criminal charges that may be brought against the drone owner  
9 and/or operator for any injury or damage resulting from the violation.

10  
11 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The CAAP shall  
12 issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
13 implementation of this Act not later than sixty (60) days from the  
14 effectivity of this Act.

15  
16 **SEC. 9. *Retroactivity Clause.*** – This Act shall have retroactive  
17 effect. All drone owners who have not yet registered their drones or  
18 obtained permits to operate their drones are given three (3) months  
19 from the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this  
20 Act to register and obtain permits without fear of sanction.

21  
22 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this  
23 Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or  
24 provisions of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration.

25  
26 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
27 regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the  
28 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

29  
30 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen  
31 (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers  
32 of general circulation.

*Approved,*