

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

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SENATE  
PS. Res. No. 963

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Introduced by **Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF**  
**ONLINE GAMBLING ACCESSIBLE TO FILIPINO MINORS THROUGH**  
**UNDERREGULATED ONLINE AND MOBILE PLATFORMS SUCH AS SOCIAL**  
**MEDIA SITES AND APPLICATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 13, provides that "[t]he State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;"

WHEREAS, while the Senate recognizes the economic gains brought about by gambling operations in the Philippines and around the world, it should not come at the cost of our youth;

WHEREAS, an article published in LinkedIn in 27 June 2023, Marketors stated that "[t]he Philippines is one of the most successful and wagering destinations for gamblers in the world." They added that "[y]oungsters are very attracted to online gambling as they are mostly on phones surfing the internet, they are easy to catch on these online casino sites;"<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, the advent of mobile gaming has made gambling more accessible than ever in our country. In the same article, it stated that "[m]obile gambling has become quite common among people in the Philippines where they are playing online casino games like blackjack, slot games and many more;"

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/why-online-gambling-becoming-popular-philippines-marketors>

WHEREAS, in an article published in Medium on 16 June 2023, it was stated that “[s]ocial media is playing an increasingly important role in the lives of Filipinos. This is providing new opportunities for online gambling operators to reach potential customers;”<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, in an article published on Rappler on 10 October 2018, it provided that “[h]undreds of gaming sites are available on the internet, amplified by advertisements that draw people of all ages to try and gamble;”<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, in the same article, it provided that “gambling addiction will only ‘get worse’ with online gaming. Gamblers rely on the chance of winning little to huge amounts. Most times, losing does not hinder gamblers from playing – rather, it compels them to recover losses until they win again. Online gaming makes this cycle easier;”

WHEREAS, on top of the usual dangers involving gambling addiction, online gambling increases the risk to the players of cybercrimes such as estafa scams as well as identity theft. The inexperience and naivete of our youth would make them much more vulnerable to these malevolent acts;

WHEREAS, there is need to investigate the regulation of gambling activities and the platforms in which they are accessed to prevent the corruption of the youth towards the vice of gambling;

WHEREAS, it is the government's duty as *bonus pater familias* to take a protective stand and enact measures to ensure that the Filipino youth are not unduly exposed to the negative effects of gambling;

WHEREAS, one way to protect the Filipino youth is to examine seemingly harmless platforms such as social media sites such as Facebook, X, and Tiktok, and

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<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from: <https://medium.com/@mildredford12/online-gambling-in-the-philippines-a-thriving-industry-driven-by-sports-passion-9c5dc14e564f>

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/in-depth/212424-how-filipinos-fall-prey-online-gambling-market/>

payment hubs like GCash, Maya, mobile banking apps, and the like to ensure that they are not being misused for illegal online gambling activities;

WHEREAS, sufficient safeguards and programs must be in place to prevent Filipino children from being lured and victimized by online gambling;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines, through the appropriate committee, conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the proliferation of online gambling accessible to Filipino minors through underregulated online and mobile platforms such as social media sites and applications;

*Adopted,*

  
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*