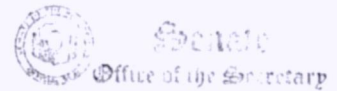


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )**



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**SENATE  
S. No. 1098**

RECORDED 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. In fact, just recently, drone attacks claimed by Yemen’s Houthi rebels struck two key oil installations inside Saudi Arabia, damaging facilities that process the vast majority of the country’s crude output and raising the risk of a disruption in world oil supplies.<sup>1</sup>

This measure was filed by the undersigned during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress to ensure public safety by regulating the ownership and operation of drones in the Philippines.

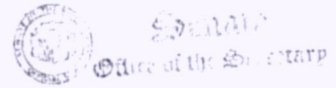
Once again, in the interest of safeguarding the public, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

**AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/14/world/middleeast/saudi-arabia-refineries-drone-attack.html>. Accessed last 18 September 2019.

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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 defined  
6 herein, purchased, owned, and operated by private persons, whether used  
7 for hobby or commercial purposes. The use of drones by the  
8 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 any component of an unmanned aerial system (UAS) that has no  
15 pilot and is controlled by an operator on the ground. The Civil  
16 Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) is authorized by  
17 this Act to classify drones into types for the purpose of  
18 regulation.

19



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

3  
4 (3) “*Commercial drone use*” is any use of a drone in connection  
5 with a business or profession.

6  
7 (4) “*Hobbyist drone use*” is the use of drones for recreational  
8 purposes where no pecuniary benefit is made from the use of  
9 drones.

10  
11 **SEC. 4. *Registration and Permit to Operate.*** – All drone owners,  
12 whether the drones are for hobbyist or commercial use, are hereby  
13 required to periodically register themselves and their drones with the  
14 Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)’s Public Safety and  
15 Security Command Center.

16  
17 Only a registered commercial drone owner may apply for a permit  
18 to operate, which shall be issued periodically only upon proof that the  
19 owner:

20  
21 (1) Qualifies for a radio operator’s certificate of proficiency;

22  
23 (2) Has been awarded a passing rating in an aviation license theory  
24 examination;

25  
26 (3) Has completed a training course in the operation of the type of  
27 drone that will be operated;

28  
29 (4) Has at least five (5) hours of experience operating drones  
30 outside of controlled airspace;

31  
32 (5) Has valid insurance over the drone; and

33  
34 (6) Has not incurred any violations for drone ownership or use in  
35 the five (5) years immediately preceding an application for  
36 permit.

1 The operator's permit to operate shall cover all registered drones of  
2 the same type.

3  
4 The CAAP is hereby authorized to collect reasonable fees for the  
5 registration of drones and processing of permits to operate the drones.  
6

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

16 This power is without prejudice to the power of other government  
17 agencies to regulate airspace, particularly in emergency situations that  
18 may require the establishment of no-fly zones.  
19

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

- 28 (1) Requiring all drones, whether for hobbyist or commercial use,  
29 to be clearly marked with a registration number and the name,  
30 contact number, and address of the owner;  
31
- 32 (2) Prohibiting the use of drones as a means to violate constitutional  
33 rights, including the right to privacy;  
34
- 35 (3) A prohibition on flying drones above four hundred (400) feet;  
36



- 1 (4) A prohibition on flying drones near an aircraft, particularly near  
2 airports;
- 3
- 4 (5) Allowing drone operation only during daylight hours and in  
5 good weather, subject to exceptions to be determined by the  
6 CAAP;
- 7
- 8 (6) The prohibition on flying drones over groups of people, public  
9 events, public buildings and government structures, oil  
10 refineries and depots, or stadiums full of people, subject to  
11 exceptions to be determined by the CAAP;
- 12
- 13 (7) The prohibition on flying drones near emergencies, such as  
14 fires, collapsed buildings, vehicular accidents and the like;
- 15
- 16 (8) The prohibition on flying drones under the influence of drugs or  
17 alcohol;
- 18
- 19 (9) For hobbyist drone use, requiring an operator to keep the drone  
20 within the operator's line of sight; and
- 21
- 22 (10) Other regulations as the CAAP may see fit to introduce in the  
23 interest of public safety.
- 24

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

27

28 Operating a drone for commercial purposes without a permit shall  
29 result in the confiscation of the drone and a fine of not less than Fifty  
30 Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred  
31 Thousand Pesos (PhP100,000.00).

32

33 Any violation of the general safety regulations and restrictions on  
34 drone usage shall result in a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand  
35 Pesos (PhP100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos  
36 (PhP500,000.00), without prejudice to any separate civil or criminal

1 charges that may be brought against the drone owner and/or operator for  
2 any injury or damage resulting from the violation.

3

4 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The CAAP shall  
5 issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
6 implementation of this Act not later than sixty (60) days from the  
7 effectivity of this Act.

8

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

14

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

18

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

22

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

*Approved,*