

AN ACT REVISING THE GENERAL AUTHORITY OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COUNCILS TO LEVY TAXES, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.

Commonwealth Act No. 472, June 16, 1939

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/b28c3af28046/>

Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Philippines:

Sec. 1. A municipal council or municipal district council shall have authority to impose municipal license taxes upon persons engaged in any occupation or business, or exercising privileges in the municipality or municipal district, by requiring them to secure licenses at rates fixed by the municipal council, or municipal district council, and to collect fees-and. charges-for services rendered by the municipality or municipal district and shall otherwise have power to levy for public local purposes, and for school purposes, including teachers salaries, just and uniform taxes other than percentage taxes and taxes on specified articles.

Sec. 2. Until higher rates of municipal license "taxes-are fixed, the municipal license taxes on the following businesses shall-be as appearing opposite each, the amounts stated being for the whole year, unless otherwise specified:

- Be tail dealers in tuba, basi, and tapuy, five pesos;
- Proprietors of cockpits, two hundred pesos; and for each cockfight (soltada), twenty-five centavos;
- Proprietors of theaters, museums, cinematographs, and concert halls, one hundred pesos; or, by the month, ten pesos;
- Proprietors of circuses giving exhibitions in one or more places or provinces, two hundred pesos; or, by the month, twenty pesos;
- Proprietors of billiard rooms, for each table, ten pesos;
- Pawnbrokers, four hundred pesos.

Sec. 3. It shall be beyond the power of the municipal council and municipal district council to impose the following taxes, charges, and fees:

- Cedula tax;
- Documentary stamp tax;
- Taxes on the business of persons engaged in the printing and publication of any newspaper, magazine, review, or bulletin appearing at regular intervals and having fixed prices for subscription and sale and which is.not published primarily for the purpose of publishing advertisements;
- Taxes on persons operating telephones and telegraph lines or exchanges, broadcasting or wireless stations, and on persons selling light, heat, or power and engaged in the installation of gas,

or electric light, heat, or power;

- Taxes on the business of transportation contractors and persons engaged in the transportation of passengers or freight by hire, and common carriers by land or water;

- Taxes on the business of wholesale dealers in liquors and fermented liquors; tobacco dealers, wholesale peddlers of distilled, manufactured, or fermented liquors; wholesale peddlers of manufactured tobacco, stock, real estate, and commercial brokers; distillers of spirits, brewers, rectifiers of distilled spirits; manufacturers of tobacco; manufacturers of cigars and cigarettes; and repackers of wines or distilled spirits;

- Taxes on customs and immigration brokers, lawyers, medical practitioners, land surveyors, architects, public accountants, and civil, electrical, mechanical or mining engineers, dental surgeons, opticians, photographers, engravers, and professional appraisers or connoisseurs of tobacco and other domestic or foreign products, chemists, registered nurses, insurance agents and subagents, veterinarians, pharmacists, midwives.

- Specific taxes on things manufactured or produced in the Philippines, or imported from the United States or foreign countries;

- Taxes of any kind on banks, insurance companies, and persons paying a franchise tax;

- Charges on forest products;

- Taxes on mines and mining concessions;

- Taxes on estates, inheritances, gifts, legacies, and other acquisitions mortis causa;

- Taxes on income of any kind whatsoever;

- Fees for testing, sealing, and licensing of weights and measures;

- Taxes on dealers in, and individual holders of, firearms, dynamite, powder, detonators, fuses or other high explosives and their components; and fees for the issuance of hunting permits;

- Taxes on premiums paid by owners of property who obtain insurance directly with foreign insurance companies;

- Taxes or fees on the taking of marine mollusca, or the shells of such, and fees for the issuance of pearling-boat and pearl diver's licenses;

- Taxes or fees for the privilege of fishing, collecting, or gathering sponges from the sea bottom or reefs and for prospecting for sponges in any waters of the Philippines,

- Taxes or fees for the registration of motor vehicles and for the issuance of all kinds of licenses or permits for the driving thereof;

- Customs duties, registration, wharfage tonnage, and all other kinds of customs fees, charges and dues.

Sec. 4. The approval of the Secretary of Finance shall be secured:

- Whenever the rates of municipal license or imposed by ordinance of the municipal council of a district exceed the rates of fixed internal revenue privilege regularly imposed by the National Government upon the same businesses or occupation, except on hotels, restaurants, cafes, refreshment parlors, race tracks, and retail dealers in wine, liquors and fermented liquors, and any tax or fee on livery stables, garages, and other places or establishments where public vehicles and other conveyances are kept for hire;

- Whenever the rate of fixed municipal license taxes on businesses not excepted in this Act or otherwise covered by the preceding paragraph and subject to the fixed annual tax imposed in section one hundred eighty-two of the National Internal Revenue Law, is in excess of fifty pesos per annum; and
- Whenever the municipal license tax on any business, occupation, or privilege the rate of which is not limited above is increased by more than fifty per centum.

Hawkers, peddlers, hucksters, piano tuners, piano repairers who do not carry on their trade in their own shops or establishments, and proprietors of circuses, who have secured licenses at the rates fixed by ordinance in any municipality or municipal district shall not be required to take out licenses in any other municipality or municipal district through which they may travel for business, unless the term for the renewal of such licenses shall have expired.

Sec. 5. Acts Numbered Thirty-four hundred and twenty two, thirty-seven hundred, Thirty seven hundred and ninety, Thirty-eight hundred and thirty-three, and Four thousand and nineteen, are repealed.

Sec. 6. This Act shall take effect on its approval.

Approved, June 16, 1939.

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at <https://batas.org>

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.