

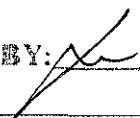
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'11 MAR 10 P3:29

SENATE  
S. No. **2741**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides:

SEC. 17. The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Athletes who engage in contact sport risk their health and sometimes their very lives for the nation. The honor that boxing legends such as Manny Pacquiao, Gabriel "Flash" Elorde and the Velasco Brothers, among others, have brought to the country in the international arena should not be overlooked. Their achievements placed the Philippines in the world boxing map. We not only excel in boxing but in other sports as well. Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros-Posadas, the bowling hall-of-famer Paeng Nepomuceno, and the Magician, Efren "Bata" Reyes, to name a few, are undeniably world-class talents. The list is endless but our memories are short.

This problem of apathy to the plight of our world class athletes needs to be addressed. This bill, therefore, seeks to grant a monthly pension to former world champions upon retirement at age 50 or who became incapacitated in pursuing their careers. This bill also shoulders the hospitalization, medical expenses and also provides death benefits to these athletes. This bill shall give more than lip service to the lives that our athletes have dedicated for our nation. It will also serve to encourage our citizens to engage in competitive sports, giving a much-needed push to the Philippine Olympic effort.

This is the Senate counterpart of the substitute bill introduced by Representatives Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Jose Carlos L. Cari, Mark A. Villar, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Daryl Grace J.

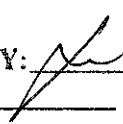
Abayon, Raden C. Sakaluran, Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy and Renato J. Unico, Jr. in the House of Representatives.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*Def*



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1 AN ACT

2 GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO  
3 PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN  
4 INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER EQUALLY  
5 PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

6 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Professional Filipino Athletes  
7 Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2011."

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall provide retirement, health care, and  
9 death benefits to professional Filipino athletes, who win world championship titles in  
10 international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world championship  
11 games, in both individual or team events, in recognition of the glory and honor they bestowed to  
12 their country.

13 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

14 (a) Professional Filipino Athletes – shall refer to athletes who are Filipino citizens  
15 and paid a sum of money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in  
16 a game, bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either as an individual contestant or  
17 member of a team under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or  
18 team owner and licensed by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB);

19 (b) Professional Sports – shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest,  
20 bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money and  
21 other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which are accredited and  
22 recognized by the GAB;

1 (c) International Professional Sports Competitions – shall refer to international  
2 competitions that confer world championship titles in both individual or team events which are  
3 duly sanctioned and recognized by international sporting organizations and bodies and accredited  
4 by the GAB;

5 (d) Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games – shall refer to other  
6 international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or stature as world  
7 championship titles and recognized as such by the GAB;

8 (e) International Sporting Organizations – shall refer to international bodies that are  
9 recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or memorandum  
10 of understanding with the GAB.

11 SECTION 4. *Retirement Benefits.* – Professional Filipino athletes as defined under this  
12 Act, who win in international professional sports competitions shall, upon reaching the age of  
13 fifty (50), receive the following retirement benefits:

14 (a) For Individual Events – a lifetime monthly pension of at least Fifteen Thousand  
15 Pesos (Php15,000.00) for the individual winner;

16 (b) For Team Events – a lifetime monthly pension of at least Ten Thousand Pesos  
17 (Php10,000.00) for each team member;

18 *Provided,* That for athletes who win in both individual and team events, the retirement  
19 benefits for individual events shall apply.

20 Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of fifty (50) and have  
21 availed of the retirement benefits under this Act may continue with such employment *Provided,*  
22 That the retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and distinct from the mandatory  
23 retirement benefits provided by existing laws.

24 SECTION 5. *Health Care Benefits.* – Immediately upon winning in any international  
25 professional sports competitions, professional Filipino athletes shall be covered by the National  
26 Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH),  
27 through a special program sponsored by the GAB, which will provide the required local  
28 government premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PHILHEALTH. Upon reaching

1 the age of fifty (50), the athlete shall be an honorary member of the program, subject to existing  
2 rules and regulations of the PHILHEALTH.

3 In case of hospitalization of the professional Filipino athlete in any hospital or clinic, any  
4 amount in excess of the PHILHEALTH benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity  
5 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP):  
6 *Provided*, That the requirement for qualification and grant of the health care assistance to be  
7 extended by the PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to compliance with PCSO's  
8 existing rules and guidelines: *Provided, further*, That any qualified beneficiary shall have the  
9 option to waive the benefits mentioned under this Section.

10 SECTION 6. *Death Benefits*. – Upon the death of a professional Filipino athlete, the  
11 primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Thirty Thousand Pesos  
12 (Php30,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses: *Provided*, That, if there are no primary  
13 beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

14 For purposes of this Act, primary beneficiaries shall refer to legitimate spouse, legitimate  
15 or illegitimate children. Secondary beneficiaries shall refer to the parents, and in their absence, to  
16 the brothers or sisters of professional athletes.

17 SECTION 7. *Retroactive Effect*. – The benefits provided under this Act shall retroact to  
18 all living professional athletes who, prior to the enactment of this Act, have won in any  
19 international professional sports competition, upon compliance with the requirements that shall  
20 be prescribed by the GAB in its Implementing Rules and Regulations: *Provided*, That, the  
21 winning professional athlete was duly licensed by the GAB at the time of the completion and the  
22 sports event participated in was recognized and accredited by the GAB.

23 SECTION 8. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits*. – The adjustment in retirement benefits  
24 provided in Section 4 hereof may be authorized, subject to the approval of the President, upon  
25 the joint recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)  
26 and the Chairman of the GAB, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with relevant  
27 agencies, entities and concerned athletes and coaches. However, no memorandum, order or  
28 issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits.

1           SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – The Chairman of the GAB shall immediately include in  
2 the Board’s program the implementation of the benefits under this Act, the funding of which  
3 shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

4           SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The GAB, in consultation with the  
5 Senate, the House of Representatives, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate and issue  
6 the Implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

7           SECTION 11. *Separability Clause* – If any provision or part of this Act shall be held  
8 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be  
9 in full force and effect.

10          SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules  
11 and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
12 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

13          SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
14 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,