

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

'04 JUN 30 P1:21

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SENATE  
S.B. No. 124

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Introduced by Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito Estrada

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 14 provides, "The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men." In society like ours, the quality of the sexes should be an old issue not worthy of the slightest of the attention. But to my dismay, gender discrimination still lives.

Sports does not only bring people together but also develops other aspects of a person. This is not only applicable to men but also holds true for women. There is substantial evidence that women and girls who participate in sports have a better physical and emotional health than women and girls who do not participate, and that participation in athletics can improve academic achievement.

The field of sports was not spared from sex discrimination. Again, the discrimination is detrimental to the interest of women. Despite the assurance of the Constitution, a significant gap remains between the athletic opportunities available to men and the athletic opportunities available to women. This bill seeks to grant women equal sports opportunities with men. "To level the playing field" so to speak with regard to the opportunities available to women and men in the province of sports. In a wider perspective, this bill equips women with the capacity to play a major role in nation-building.

For all the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bills is earnestly requested.

  
LUISA "LOI" EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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**AN ACT**  
**GRANTING WOMEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO ATHLETIC**  
**SCHOLARSHIP AND TO PRIZES OF SPORTS**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled.*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This act shall be known as the "Sports Equal Opportunity Act."

SECTION. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is declared a state policy to recognize the role of women in nation-building, and to ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. Sports shall not be the last bastion of sex discrimination. Because any kind of discrimination is repugnant to an orderly society like ours.

SECTION. 3. *Definitions of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the terms:

- (A) "Athletic scholarship program" includes all benefits derived from the program given by the school, college, university or any other person, party or entity;
- (B) "Sports event or tournament" means any tournament, competition, contest, race, match, event or game where a sport prize, as defined in paragraph (E) of this Section, is given to winners;

- (C) "Secretary refers to the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports;
- (D) "Department" refers to the Department of Education and Sports;
- (E) "Sports prize" includes awards, premiums, incentives, rewards, gifts or anything given to a winner of a sport event or tournament, whether monetary or not.

SECTION 4. *Athletic Scholarship Program.* - Schools, colleges, universities, or any other learning institutions shall take into account the gender of its total student population in granting athletic scholarship. There shall be pro rata representation of women in the athletic scholarship program based on the percentage of women in the whole student population.

The schools, colleges, universities or any other learning institutions shall submit an annual report in writing to the Secretary which contains the following:

- (A) the total number of the student population;
- (B) a list of athletic scholars; and
- (C) the extent of the scholarship program given to a particular individual, including a summary on how much was given to a particular scholar.

SECTION 5. *School Annual Report To Be Made Available To Students.* - Students of the school, colleges, universities or any other learning institutions shall have the right to know the information contained in the annual report required by the preceding section. Upon a written request from the students, the colleges, universities or any other learning institutions shall furnish the students with a copy of the annual report.

SECTION 6. *Sports Prizes.* - No sports event or tournament will offer or award a different sports prize, with respect to its amount or value, to women and men winners, *Provided that*, the said tournament, contest, race, match, event or game is open to both

sexes. *Provided further* that, the sports event or tournament is divided into male or female division.

SECTION 7. ***Rules and Regulations.*** - The Secretary is hereby authorized to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act in accordance with its purpose(s).

SECTION 8. ***Penalty.*** - Any violation of this Act shall be punished with a fine of not less than P10,000.00 but not more than P20,000.00 or imprisonment of not less than three (3) months or both at the discretion of the court. If the offense is committed by a corporation, trust, firm, partnership or association or other entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the guilty officer or officers of such corporation, trust, firm, partnership or association or entity.

SECTION 9. ***Separability Clause.*** - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. ***Repealing Clause.*** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION. 11. ***Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*

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