

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JAN 28 P3 52

SENATE
S. No. 3177

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
ASSISTING YOUNG ATHLETES BY PROVIDING
PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, provides:

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.

Young athletes are the future of the sports program of any nation. The performance of the most successful countries in the Olympics shows us that their gold winning athletes started really young in their chosen events. This bill seeks to assist young athletes by giving them financial incentives and helping in their development. It involves helping young athletes in three ways. First, it allows them to be members of sports clubs and programs. Second, it gives incentives to these sports clubs and programs. Third, the bill also focuses on the improvement of sports facilities. If we are serious about our national sports program, we should start with measures that help our youngest athletes.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
at

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fifteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Young Athletes
2 Assistance Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies and Objectives.* – Pursuant to the
4 Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, the State shall give priority to education, science and
5 technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social
6 progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

7 In addition to this, Article 14, Section 19, paragraph 1 provides that the State shall
8 promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions and
9 amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline,
10 teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

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

12 (A) “Athletic program” refers to an athletic program at any education institution,
13 sports club, or from the local or national government; and

14 (B) “Young athlete” refers to any person who engages in sports and is below
15 eighteen (18) years of age.

1 SECTION 4. *Get Started, Get Going and Get Playing Funds.* – Three separate
2 funds for the strengthening of grassroots sports programs are hereby created to be
3 administered by the Philippines Sports Commission.

4 SECTION 5. *Get Started in Sports Fund.* – This assists young athletes who can
5 least afford or may otherwise benefit from joining a sport or recreation club. Young
6 athletes shall be provided with a voucher of up to Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) to
7 help pay for participation fees. The vouchers can be redeemed at a sport or recreation
8 club registered with the program.

9 SECTION 6. *Get Going Fund.* – This fund supports local sports and recreation
10 organizations with funding of up to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for projects that
11 create opportunities for more young athletes to become members.

12 SECTION 7. *Get Playing Fund.* – This fund improves sports facilities by
13 providing up to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) in funding to assist local
14 sports and recreation organizations with facility development so more young athletes are
15 encouraged to become involved in the sport or recreation activity of their choice.

16 SECTION 8. *Funding Requirements.* – The amount of Eighty Million Pesos
17 (P80,000,000.00) shall be set aside from the revenues of the Philippine Amusement and
18 Gaming Corporation annually to be allocated for the funding of this Act.

19 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
21 provisions hereof.

1 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
2 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
3 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
6 circulation.

Approved,

/ml14Jan2016