



16 JUL 19 12:43

SENATE

S. No. 541

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to extend benefits and other privileges to our professional athletes who have brought honor and glory to the country by becoming world champions and/or winning international sports competitions.

Our professional athletes risk lives and limbs in order to give honor and glory to the motherland. They often forego employment opportunities to practice and perfect their craft in the hope that they can one day win that coveted Championship on international sports competition and make us proud to be Filipinos. When they win, they receive our praise, exultation and collective adulation at least while they remain champions and winners. When their reign is over, they often find themselves alone, abandoned and without any viable means to support themselves and their families.

The cases of former Filipino world boxing champions Rolando Navarette and Luisito Espinosa are cases in point. Navarette has been reduced to the life of a pauper; dependent on charitable gestures from his countrymen for his sustenance and for his medical expenses. Luisito Espinosa has been forced to continue fighting and to struggle financially so he could survive in a faraway land (the United States).

It is a sad reality but we often see Filipino world champions and sporting heroes suffer and even die penniless after their heydays. Clearly, something has to be done to help those who have brought us honor and glory to at least have a decent life after their glory days. Champions are champions. They deserve something better than a mere pat in the back or the short-lived adulation of his countrymen.

The prestige that boxing great Manny Pacquiao, our 8-Division World Champion has brought to the country in the international arena cannot be overemphasized. Undoubtedly, he has restored the Philippines in the world boxing map, earning the adulation and respect not only of his countrymen but of boxing aficionados and even ordinary folks the world over. We not only excel in boxing but in other sports as well Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros-Posadas, the

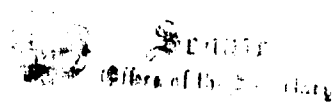
bowling hall-of-famer Paeng Nepomuceno – all of them are world or Asian champions. The list is endless but our memories are rather short.

This bill, therefore, seeks to grant financial benefits to our prized athletes in the form of retirement pensions, health care and death benefit. Admittedly, even the benefits proposed in this Bill are at best modest and inadequate compared to the sacrifices and hardships our athletes had to endure for our country but at least the same will signify and symbolize our collective expression of gratitude for the honor and glory they have brought our country. The same represent a starting point in the continuing effort to look after the welfare and interest of our professional athletes.

A version of this bill was passed by both Houses during the 15th Congress. Unfortunately, the same was vetoed by the President. It is my hope that this Congress, a compromise could be arrived at and this bill could be finally enacted into law for the benefit of our poor countrymen.

In view of the foregoing circumstances, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator



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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 "*Professional Filipino*
2 *Athletes Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2016.*"
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State shall provide retirement, health care, and
5 death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles in
6 international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world
7 championship games, in both individual or team events, in recognition of the glory and honor
8 they have bestowed to the country.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
11 defined as follows:
12

- 13 a. Board - shall refer to the Games and Amusement Board (GAB);
14
15 b. Filipino Athlete - shall refer to professional athletes who are citizens of the
16 Philippines, except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of R.A. No. 9225
17 otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003";
18
19 c. International Professional Sports Competitions - shall refer to international
20 bodies that are recognized, accredited and have a mutual working relationship,
21 agreement, and/or memorandum of understanding with the Board;
22
23 d. International Sporting Organizations - shall refer to international bodies that are
24 recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement,
25 and/or memorandum of understanding with the Board;
26
27 e. Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games - shall refer to other
28 international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or stature
29 as world championship titles and are recognized as such by the Board;

- 1
2 f. Primary Beneficiaries - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the legitimate
3 spouse and legitimate or illegitimate children;
4
5 g. Professional Athlete - shall refer to any natural person who is paid a sum of
6 money or other equivalent compensation as a salary or prize money for
7 participating in a game, bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either
8 as an individual contestant or a member of a team, under a contract entered into
9 with a professional sports promoter/operator or team owner and licensed by the
10 Board;
11
12 h. Professional Sports - shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest,
13 bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums
14 of money or other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for
15 participation, which are accredited and/or recognized by the Board; and
16
17 i. Secondary beneficiaries - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the parents, and
18 in their absence, to the brothers or sister of professional athletes.
19

20
21 **CHAPTER II**
22 **RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS**

23 **SEC. 4. Retirement Benefits.** - Professional Filipino Athletes, as defined under this
24 Act, who win in international professional sports competitions shall, upon reaching the age of
25 fifty (50), receive the following retirement benefits:
26

- 27 a. For Individual Events - a lifetime monthly pension of at least Fifteen Thousand Pesos
28 (Php 15,000.00) for the individual winner; or
29
30 b. For Team Events - a lifetime monthly pension of at last Ten Thousand Pesos (Php
31 10,000.00) for each team member: *Provided*, That for athletes who win in individual
32 and team events, the retirement benefits for individual events shall apply.
33

34 Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of fifty (50) and
35 have availed of the retirement benefits under this Act may continue with such employment:
36 *Provided*, That the retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and distinct from the
37 mandatory retirement benefits provided by existing laws or pursuant to existing company
38 policies.
39

40 **SEC. 5. Health Care Benefits.** - Immediately upon winning in any international
41 professional sports competitions, Professional Filipino Athletes shall be covered by the
42 National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
43 (PhilHealth), through a special program sponsored by the Board, which will provide the
44 required local government premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PhilHealth.
45 Upon reaching the age of fifty (50), the athlete shall continue to be a member of the program,
46 subject to existing rules and .regulation of the PhilHealth.
47

48 In case of hospitalization of the Professional Filipino athlete in any hospital or clinic,
49 any amount in excess of the PhilHealth benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity
50 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP):

1 *Provided*, That the requirement for qualification and grant of the health care assistance to be
2 extended by the PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to compliance with PCSO's
3 existing rules and guidelines: *Provided, further*, That any qualified beneficiary shall have the
4 option to waive the benefits mentioned under this Section.
5

6 **SEC. 6. *Death Benefits.*** - Upon the death of a Professional Filipino Athlete, the
7 primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Fifty Thousand Pesos
8 (Php 50,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses: *Provided*, That, if there are no primary
9 beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

10 **SEC. 7. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits.*** - The Board is hereby authorized to
11 adjust the retirement benefits provided in Section 4 hereof, based on studies, consultations
12 and public hearings with relevant agencies and entities. However, no memorandum, order or
13 issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits provided herein.
14

15 **CHAPTER III**
16 **TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS**
17

18 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** - The Chairman of the Board shall immediately include in
19 the Board's program the implementation of the benefits under this Act, the funding of which
20 shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.
21

22 **SEC. 10. *Professional Filipino Athletes Welfare Development Trust Fund.*** - There
23 shall be an independent and separate trust fund established under this Act, to be administered
24 by the Board. An amount not less than eighty percent (80%) for the first five (5) years,
25 accrued from the licensing, registration and accreditation fees, fines and charges shall be used
26 for the purpose of the professional Filipino athlete's welfare development trust fund. The fund
27 shall be used for the continued upgrading of training facilities to conform with international
28 standards, accreditation of, and other forms of assistance and support to the professional
29 athlete's sector. The trust fund may also accept grants and donations from national and
30 foreign entities and individual interested in the professional athletes' development.
31

32 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Board within ninety (90) days,
33 after the effectivity of this Act, through a technical working committee, and in consultation
34 with the sectors concerned, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and
35 regulations for the full implementation of this Act: *Provided, however*, That copies of the
36 formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to the Committee on Games and
37 Amusement of both Houses of Congress. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon
38 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.
39

40 **SEC. 12. *Reportorial Requirements.*** - The Board shall submit an annual report of the
41 implementation of this Act to the relevant committees of both Houses of Congress.
42

43 **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act shall be held
44 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the law or other provisions, which are not
45 affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.
46

47 **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules
48 and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
49 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

1
2 **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
3 in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation

Approved.