

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

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SENATE
S.B. No. 1526

FILED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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 equality of the sexes should be an old issue not worthy of the slightest of 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 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 sport was not spared from sex discrimination. Again, the discrimination is detrimental to the interest of women. Despite the assurances 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 sport 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 sport. In a wider perspective, this bill equips women with the capacity to play a major role in nation-building.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

*Be enacted by the Senate and House of Representative in Congress of the Philippines
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. Sport shall not be the last bastion of sex discrimination. Because any kind of
discrimination is repugnant to an orderly society like ours.

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

(1) “Athletic scholarship program” includes all benefits derived from the
program given by the school, college, university or any other person, party or entity.

(2) “Sport Event or tournament” means any tournament, competition, contest,
race, match, event, or game where a sport prize, as defined in paragraph (5) of this
section, is given to winners.

(3) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of Department of Education.

(4) “Department” refers to the Department of Education.

(5) “Sport 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 no 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 contain the following:

- (1) the total number of the student population;
- (2) a list of athletic scholars; and
- (3) 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. *Right to know.* – Student of the schools, 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 with a copy of the annual report.

SECTION 6. *Sports prizes.* – No sport event or tournament will offer or award a different sport 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 sport event or tournament is divided into male and female division.

SECTION 7. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of DepEd 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 Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more 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) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.