

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session



'19 JUL -2 A11 :49

SENATE

S. B. NO. 157

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SPORTS VARSITY TEAMS IN  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIV Section 19 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.”

Republic Act No. 9155 otherwise known as the “Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001” and Republic Act No. 5708 or “The Schools Physical Education and Sports Development Act of 1969” also provides that integrated physical education and school sports and physical fitness program shall remain part of the basic education curriculum and shall be undertaken by the Department of Education.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), consistent with its mandate of promoting interdependence among nations, has also identified the practice of sports as an instrument for promoting peace and as a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and networks.<sup>1</sup>

Numerous studies in the field of Educational Psychology also pointed out the importance of early experience or exposure in later development,

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<sup>1</sup> Sport for Peace and Development. Retrieved from: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/physical-education-and-sport/sport-for-peace-and-development/> (date last accessed: June 27, 2019)

suggesting that optimal athletic skills development should commence from early childhood to late adulthood. Hence, to optimize the development of Filipino athletes and future champions and to help them acquire positive values such as empathy and respect for others, institutionalizing varsity sports teams in elementary and secondary levels, especially in the public schools, becomes a necessity.

To this end, the Department of Education, the agency in charge of the country's basic education cycle or the K-12 system, should ensure greater focus on the formative years of the country's pool of athletes. The organization and development varsity sports teams in basic education, along with after-school sports programs (ASSP), will improve the identification, selection and long-term training of athletes in various sporting events.

Through a varsity system, student-athletes in K-12 will have better chance to play athletically at a higher level. Furthermore, an institutionalized varsity sports team in basic education can pave the way for the provision of training equipment and upkeep of modern facilities that can help improve the training of young athletes.

However, since long-term training of student athletes is expensive, both public and private elementary and secondary schools are encouraged to network with parent-teachers associations, local governments, business community and other organizations to provide the much-needed assistance for varsity sports in schools.

Helping Filipino athletes to hone their skills at a very early age is a necessity and an urgency. In the 29<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Philippines missed its projection of 50 gold medals and absorbed its poorest finish in terms of gold medal production in the last 18 years. In the past two editions of SEA Games in Myanmar and Singapore in 2013 and 2015, respectively, the Philippine contingent won only 29 gold medals.<sup>2</sup>

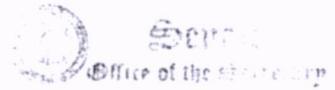
Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to develop a pool of Filipino athletes and future champions and to improve the country's performance in international competitions, especially the SEA Games.

  
SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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<sup>2</sup> 2017, August 28. "Team PH braces for worst SEA Games output in 18 years." Retrieved from: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/sports/08/28/17/team-ph-braces-for-worst-sea-games-output-in-18-years> (date last accessed: June 27, 2019)

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Sports Varsity  
2 Teams in Basic Education Act.”  
3

4 **SEC 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
5 to promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league  
6 competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international  
7 competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the  
8 development of a healthy and alert citizenry.  
9

10 To this end, the state shall provide opportunities for optimal and long-term  
11 development of Filipino athletes by expanding the base of student athletes,  
12 increasing the time and frequency for their early exposure, training and  
13 competition through the institutionalization of sports varsity teams in the basic  
14 education cycle.  
15

16 **SEC 3. Organization and Development of Sports Varsity Teams.** – To  
17 ensure the optimal and long-term development of Filipino athletes, public and  
18 private elementary and secondary schools, shall, as far as practicable,  
19 organize and develop sports varsity teams. The school shall endeavor to  
20 gradually expand the number of sport events that holds according to the  
21 school’s after-school sports program, and the interests of the students,  
22 coaches and the community.  
23

1 The establishment of varsity teams in traditional and indigenous games,  
2 dances and sports shall also be encouraged.  
3

4 **SEC 4. Organization of Sports Varsity Team.** – The organization of sports  
5 varsity teams shall consider the following:  
6

- 7 a. Presence of competent and committed teacher-coaches;  
8
- 9 b. Availability of facilities and equipment;  
10
- 11 c. Administrative support; and  
12
- 13 d. Support of the community.  
14

15 **SEC 5. Identification of Athletes.** – The Department of Education (DepEd)  
16 shall provide a sports varsity selection and admission system.  
17

18 All K-12 learners who are officially enrolled in Elementary, Junior High School,  
19 Senior High School, Open High School and Alternative Learning Systems,  
20 especially those who participate in the after-school sports program (ASSP)  
21 and who can meet the following requirements shall be able to join the school's  
22 sports varsity teams:  
23

- 24 a. Must have passed the physical fitness tests and skill tests;  
25
- 26 b. With parental consent; and  
27
- 28 c. In good academic standing.  
29

30 **SEC 6. Selection and Deployment of Competent Coaches.** – It shall be the  
31 responsibility of the school administration to secure the services of competent  
32 coaches. Teachers, including sports coordinator, trained in sports coaching  
33 shall be the priority in the selection of coaches.  
34

35 Former outstanding athletes from among the parents or community residents  
36 may be tapped to serve as volunteer coaches in the sports where they excel  
37 and gained national or international recognition. Students and graduates of  
38 the Sports Track in the Senior High School (SHS) shall also be tapped to  
39 provide assistance in the training of Sports Varsity Teams.  
40

41 The Sports Varsity Teams may also serve as a venue for the practicum and/or  
42 immersion of students in the Sports Track.  
43

44 **SEC 7. Recognition and Training of Coaches.** – DepEd shall create a  
45 mechanism to provide incentives and/or recognition to volunteer coaches.  
46

47 DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission, National  
48 Sports Associations, Philippine Olympic Committee and the private sector,  
49 shall also develop programs to train varsity coaches to become certified  
50 trainers based on international standards.

1 **SEC 8. Time and Frequency of Training.** – The implementing school has  
2 the discretion to determine the time and frequency of training of the varsity  
3 teams; *provided*, that the trainings shall be conducted after the regular class  
4 hours and shall not interfere with relevant academic activities of the students.  
5

6 **SEC 9. More Competition.** – Aside from the calendar of regular sports  
7 competitions conducted by the DepED, private and public schools shall  
8 organize varsity match with neighboring schools. A league may be composed  
9 of public and private schools.  
10

11 Elementary and secondary schools may also partner with existing stadiums  
12 and sports centers in the community to host varsity matches.  
13

14 **SEC 10. Equipment for Sports Varsity.** – It shall be the responsibility of the  
15 school administration to secure the equipment necessary to sustain the  
16 training of sports varsity teams. Such equipment may be sourced from regular  
17 budget and extra-budgetary means such as donations from the community.  
18

19 The DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission, shall be  
20 responsible for maintaining a databank of standard facilities and equipment,  
21 their technical specifications, suppliers and indicative prices of these facilities  
22 and equipment for every sport covered in international competitions.  
23

24 **SEC 11. Performance Profiling of Student Athletes.** – There shall be a  
25 school-based profiling of student athletes. In case a student-athlete transfers  
26 to another school, it shall be the responsibility of his/her former coaches to  
27 transmit his/her athletic profile to the new school to ensure his/her proper  
28 recognition and continuous training and development. The profile of the  
29 student-athlete shall show results of his/her previous competition/s and  
30 improvement in clocking in the case of measurable sports.  
31

32 All elementary and secondary schools shall register and update their student  
33 athletes' profile from time to time.  
34

35 **SEC 12. Registry of Student Athletes.** – DepEd shall maintain a registry of  
36 student athletes and shall make this accessible to colleges and universities,  
37 Philippine Sports Commission, National Sports Associations, Philippine  
38 Olympic Committee and other private sport groups and organizations, subject  
39 to the requirements of the Philippine Data Privacy Act of 2012. The registry  
40 shall be used solely for identification of potential inclusion to varsity teams in  
41 colleges and/or universities, or in the case of the Philippine Sports  
42 Commission, for the selection of national athletes who shall represent the  
43 Philippines in international sporting events.  
44

45 **SEC 13. Incentives.** – The DepEd shall develop an incentives and rewards  
46 system for schools that have supported the organization and development of  
47 their varsity teams.  
48

1 Teacher-coaches shall also be given service credits and/or additional  
2 compensation or overtime pay for work performed in excess of eight (8) hours  
3 in accordance with law.  
4

5 **SEC 14. Appropriation.** – The funds necessary for the institutionalization of  
6 sports varsity teams, especially the provision of equipment, in elementary and  
7 secondary schools, shall come from the regular appropriation of DepEd.  
8

9 **SEC 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days  
10 from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd Secretary and the Chairman of the  
11 Philippine Sports Commission, upon consultation with relevant stakeholders,  
12 shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed for the implementation of  
13 this Act.  
14

15 **SEC 16. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules,  
16 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
17 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
18

19 **SEC 17. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of  
20 this bill is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or provisions  
21 hereof shall remain in force.  
22

23 **SEC 18. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
24 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.  
25

26  
27 **Approved,**  
28