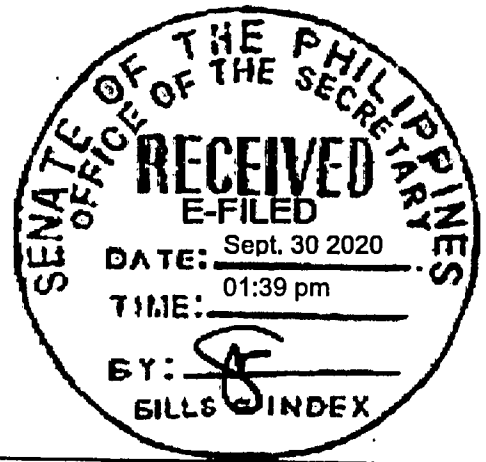


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. 1863



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS
BOARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Games and Amusements Board (GAB) is the government agency tasked with the regulation and supervision of professional sports and allied activities to combat and prevent the existence and proliferation of illegal bookie joints and other forms of organized illegal gambling connected with all play-for-pay sports and amusement games.¹ It was officially established in 1951 as part of the Implementation of a government reorganization under Executive Order No. 392.


With more than a half a century that had passed since its creation, GAB currently faces new technological developments and advances like off-site, online betting, livestreaming and video recording of events in the various professional games and amusements under the mantle of its regulatory power. At the same time, it is confronted with the emergence of new sports such as electronic sports or ESports, mixed martial arts (MMA), etc., which were not at all anticipated at the time of its establishment. These new challenges necessitate the enactment of legislation that consolidates and institutionalizes the functions and duties of GAB emanating from various laws, decrees and issuances.

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen the GAB by providing the legal framework that will set forth its functions, powers and organizational structure, clear-

¹ <https://gab.gov.ph/>

cut and reasonable standards for its licensing and permitting activities and its role in connection with specific sports and activities, i.e. professional sports, professional boxing and other contact sports, horse racing, cockfighting, jai alai and other forms of amusements. This bill expressly grants to GAB rule-making and quasi-judicial powers to accomplish its purposes and objectives and to resolve any matter, controversy or dispute arising from the performance of its functions and implementation of the law. The bill also provides for the establishment of the Athlete's Welfare Fund for the benefit of athletes who sustain injuries or die in the exercise of their profession, or in such other cases as the GAB may deem fit, and for immediate financial and medical assistance to deserving indigent athletes suffering from injuries and emergencies related to their profession.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.

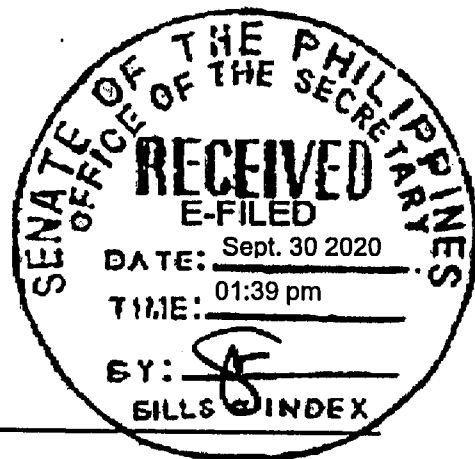


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS
BOARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "*Games and*
2 *Amusements Board Act*".

3 SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- 4 a. *Boxing* shall refer to the sport in which two persons fight with the use of
5 their fists;
- 6 b. *Cockfighting* shall refer to the setting of two gamecocks to fight each other,
7 commonly known as "*cockfighting derby, pintakasi or sabong,*" or its
8 equivalent terms in different Philippine localities;
- 9 c. *Cockpit* refers to the duly authorized venue for cockfighting. Equivalent
10 terms include "*sabungan, gallera, and coliseum*".
- 11 d. *Cockpit Personnel* refers to the persons employed by the Cockpit Operator
12 for the conduct of cockfights, including but not limited to, Gaffer, Handler,
13 Referee, and Pit Master.
- 14 e. *Contact sports* shall refer to sports, games, or competitions, other than
15 boxing and wrestling, that involve permissible degree of physical contact,
16 such as, but is not limited to, punching, striking, grappling, or any other

1 combat technique that is allowed under the rules, between the participants
2 or opponents;

3 f. *Fronton* shall refer to the court where *basque* pelota games are played,
4 including the adjoining structures used in connection with such games, such
5 as the betting booths and galleries, totalizator equipment, and the
6 grandstands where the public is admitted in connection with such games;

7 g. *Jai-alai* or *basque pelota game* shall refer to the pelota game and which
8 shall include the use of pala, raqueta, cesta punta, remonte and mano, in
9 which professional players participate;

10 h. *Pelotari* shall refer to a professional player engaged in playing basque
11 pelota;

12 i. *Professional athlete* shall refer to any natural person, who is paid a sum of
13 money or other equivalent compensation as a salary or prize money for
14 participating, either as an individual or member of a team, in a game, bout,
15 tournament or contest of professional sport: *Provided*, however, That it
16 shall not include those who are paid "token amounts" or its equivalent as
17 salary, prize, or compensation;

18 j. *Professional boxer or wrestler* shall refer to a professional athlete engaged
19 in boxing or wrestling, respectively;

20 k. *Professional fighter* shall refer to a professional athlete engaged in unarmed
21 contact sports, other than boxing or wrestling, such as mixed martial arts,
22 thal boxing, *muay thai*, and kickboxing;

23 l. *Professional sports* shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest,
24 bouts, tournaments or competitions, whereby the participating athletes or
25 competitors are paid sums of money or other forms of compensation as
26 salary or prizes. For purposes of this Act, professional sports shall refer to
27 sports and allied activities under the regulation and supervision of the GAB
28 pursuant to existing laws, as well as Special Armed Combat particularly

1 Filipino Martial Arts, and any new and emerging professional sports in the
2 country including competitive computer/video gaming and other
3 professional racing sports.

4 m. *Professional sporting events/competitions/exhibitions* shall refer to
5 individual or team sports activities, games, contest, bouts, tournaments or
6 competitions of professional sports that are conducted by any person, entity
7 or organization for profit, whereby the participating athletes or competitors
8 are paid sums of money or other forms of compensation as salary or prizes
9 for participation, *Provided*, That competitions with gate entry fees,
10 television coverage, paid advertisements or sponsors are presumed to be
11 conducted for profit: *Provided further*, That it shall not include competitions
12 held by and under the auspices of national sports associations duly
13 recognized as such by the Philippine Sports Commission, solely for the
14 development of the national training pool, or under the auspices of schools,
15 colleges and universities, for the health and sports development of their
16 students, including inter-school competitions, or athletic associations or
17 organizations of schools, colleges and universities participated in solely by
18 bona fide students of the member schools, colleges and universities:
19 *Provided finally*, That it shall not include competitions and tournaments
20 organized by the community or the LGU;

21 n. *Purse* shall refer to prize, percentage or other remuneration for which
22 boxing, wrestling or mixed martial arts contestants compete;

23 o. *Special Armed Combat* shall refer to fights that involve the limited use of
24 traditional or cultural fighting implements such as *arnis* and other non-
25 bladed weapons involved in Filipino Martial Arts (FMA); and

26 p. *Token amount* shall refer to the money or prizes, the value of which shall
27 be determined by the Board.

28 SEC. 3. *Games and Amusements Board (GAB) and its Composition*. – The
29 Games and Amusements Board, hereinafter referred to as the GAB, shall regulate

1 professional sports and allied activities in the country. It shall be composed of a
2 Chairman and two (2) Commissioners to be appointed by the President. The Chairman
3 shall be the executive officer and shall manage the day-to-day operations of the
4 agency.

5 The GAB shall be attached to the Office of the President for policy and program
6 coordination. Except as otherwise herein provided, the GAB, created pursuant to
7 Executive Order No. 392 (s. 1951), entitled: "Further Reorganizing the Different
8 Executive Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Agencies of the Government of the
9 Republic of the Philippines, Making Certain Readjustments of Personnel and Re-
10 allotments of Funds In Connection Therewith, and For Other Purposes," shall continue
11 to exercise its mandate over professional sports under Presidential Decree No. 871,
12 entitled: "Placing Professional Basketball Games and Other Professional Games Under
13 the Supervision and Regulation of the Games and Amusements Board," boxing and
14 wrestling under Executive Order No. 120 (s. 1948), entitled: "Regulating Boxing and
15 Wrestling Contests or Exhibitions," betting on horseracing under Republic Act No. 309,
16 entitled: "An Act to Regulate Horse Racing in the Philippines," as amended,
17 cockfighting under Presidential Decree No. 449, also known as the Cockfighting Law
18 of 1974, in relation to Presidential Decree No. 1802, entitled: "Creating the Philippine
19 Gamefowl Commission," jai-alai or basque pelota games under Executive Order No.
20 135 (s. 1948), entitled: "Regulating the Establishment, Maintenance, and Operation of
21 Frontons and Basque Pelota Games (Jai Alai)," as amended, and anti-illegal gambling
22 under Administrative Order Nos. 262 (s. 1992), entitled: "Creating the GAB Anti-Illegal
23 Gambling Unit of the Games and Amusements Board," and Administrative Order No.
24 222 (s. 1995), entitled: "Strengthening the Operations of the Anti-Illegal Gambling
25 Unit of the Games and Amusement Board."

26 SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions of GAB.* - The GAB, sitting as a collegial body,
27 shall have the following powers and functions:

28 a) *Rule -Making Power.* - The GAB shall be the policy making body of the
29 agency. It shall have the power to promulgate rules and regulations as well as the

1 minimum standards, qualifications and requirements necessary for the implementation
2 of this Act;

3 b) *Regulatory Power.* –

4 1. Regulate all professional sports; *Provided*, that for horseracing, only the betting
5 aspect including betting through off-track betting (OTB) stations or through the
6 use of the telephone, the internet and other electronic means such as short
7 messaging service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar
8 platforms, shall be under the exclusive regulation and supervision of the GAB.
9 All other aspects of the conduct of horse racing, including the framing and
10 scheduling of races, the construction and safety of race tracks, the allocation of
11 prizes, and the security of racing, shall be under the Philippine Racing
12 Commission pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 420, entitled: "Creating the
13 Philippine Racing Commission."

14 2. Issue professional sports licenses to professional athletes, professional sports
15 officials or persons, regardless of nationality and residence, engage in
16 professional sports in the country, whether on a regular, seasonal or one-time
17 basis: *Provided*, That such license may be suspended or revoked in any case
18 where the GAB shall have reason to believe that any of the aforesaid persons is
19 guilty of any dishonest or fraudulent practice, or has violated any law, decree,
20 executive order, rule or regulation on professional sports: *Provided further*,
21 That the GAB shall have the power to collect fees for the issuance of said
22 licenses.

23 No person, entity or association shall employ or enter into a contract with any
24 professional athlete or sports official for the conduct of professional sports
25 without such athlete or sports official having been duly licensed by the GAB

26 3. Issue permits to any person, entity or association for the holding of a
27 professional sporting event, competition or exhibition: *Provided*, That GAB shall
28 order the suspension or cancellation of any game in case of violation of law or
29 non-compliance with the provisions of this Act or the rules and regulations

1 promulgated hereunder; *Provided futher*, That the GAB shall have the power to
2 collect fees for the issuance of said permits.

3 For each event, competition or exhibition, the GAB shall, among others:

4 a. Require any promoter or entity applying for a permit to conduct
5 professional sporting events, competitions or exhibitions to furnish the
6 GAB with a cash or surety bond, in an amount equivalent to five percent
7 (5%) of the total estimate of receipts from the full seating capacity of
8 the bulding, stadium or structure where the contest or exhibition is to
9 be held, to answer for the following obligations in the order named:

10 i. Government share as provided for in Section 4 (b)(3)(d);

11 ii. Reimbursement of tickets when so ordered by the GAB;

12 iii. Guarantee payment of services and prizes to competitors
13 and games officials.

14 b. Assign among the duly licensed professional sports officials, the
15 referees, timekeepers, scorers and other officials to officiate thereat and
16 only the officials so designated shall have authority to perform their
17 respective functions.

18 c. Through its duly authorized representatives, supervise the sale of
19 admission tickets for any professional sport.

20 d. Collect from any person, entity or association conducting professional
21 sporting events, competitions or exhibitions, a government share of
22 three percent (3%) of the gross gate receipts and income from
23 television, radio, motion picture rights, and other forms of streaming or
24 broadcasting using advanced technology and other electronic media, if
25 any, to defray the expenses of the personnel of the GAB assigned to
26 supervise the games and for such other expenses in other activities of
27 the GAB. *Provided*, That in the case of cockfight and jal-alai matches,
28 the GAB shall regulate and supervise the live streaming, broadcasting or

1 other forms of transmission of said games, and any and all betting
2 through off-site betting stations or through the telephone, internet and
3 other electronic means such as short messaging service (SMS), mobile
4 and desktop applications and similar platforms, and shall collect fees
5 amounting to three percent (3%) of the gross bets made through off-
6 site betting stations and the aforementioned platforms to defray the
7 expenses of the GAB;

- 8
- 9 4. Review contracts between professional athletes and their managers, including
10 the sharing in the purse and the manner of payment, compensation and other
11 remuneration of the professional athletes, if any. *Provided*, That GAB shall be
12 furnished with a copy of the same at least seven (7) days before the
13 professional sports, contest or exhibition to which the contract relates.
14 *Provided further*, that all persons, leagues, corporations and other entities
15 involved in professional sports shall submit to the GAB copies of all their
16 contracts with radio and television networks or with entities engaged in other
17 forms of streaming or broadcasting of professional sports using other
18 technology and electronic media, within ten (10) days from execution of the
19 same.
- 20 5. Review the rules and regulations issued by persons, entities or associations
21 relative to the operation and conduct of professional sports;
- 22 6. Ensure that the promoter or entity conducting the professional sporting events,
23 competitions or exhibitions pay within a reasonable period after such event,
24 competition or exhibition, or, in case of a percentage contract, immediately
25 after the percentage is determined by the auditor of the GAB, the prizes,
26 purses, compensation or other remuneration of professional athletes, officials,
27 and all other persons entitled to payment, and to furnish the Board or its
28 authorized representative with a copy of the receipt for such payment; and

1 7. Issue an authority or clearance to travel and compete abroad to professional
2 athletes and officials who will travel to, and participate in any sports
3 tournaments, games or competitions.

4 c) *Quasi –Judicial Power.* – The GAB shall have the power to hear and decide any
5 matter, controversy, or dispute arising from this Act, including the authority:

6 1. To promulgate its own rules of procedure for the speedy disposition
7 of cases before it;

8 2. To designate any of its officers to conduct hearing or investigation of
9 any case pending before it;

10 3. To summon parties, issue subpoena or require the production of
11 such books, papers, contracts, records or other documents as may
12 be necessary for the just determination and adjudication of any
13 matter under investigation;

14 4. Impose administrative sanctions and fines to erring athletes, boxers,
15 fighters, promoters, managers, referees and other professional
16 licensees and holders of permits issued the GAB;

17 5. To conduct mediation, conciliation, arbitration or other modes of
18 settling disputes; and

19 6. To perform such other duties and exercise other powers incidental to
20 or necessary to the exercise of its quasi-judicial powers.

21 All judgments, final orders or resolutions of the GAB in the exercise of its quasi
22 –judicial power shall be appealable to the Court of Appeals.

23 d) *Other Powers.* – The GAB shall likewise have the authority to:

24 1. Enforce all laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, relating to
25 professional sports;

1 2. Coordinate with local and international professional sports organizations or
2 regulatory bodies and attend relevant sports conventions, competitions and
3 events;

4 3. Coordinate with organizations engaged in the promotion and control of
5 amateur and collegiate sports;

6 4. Appoint personnel as it shall deem necessary in the exercise and
7 performance of its powers and duties, and/or to employ the services by contract
8 or otherwise, consultant or any local or foreign expert or technical personnel to
9 provide technical and necessary assistance, conduct seminars and training and
10 pay reasonable emoluments for their services;

11 5. Deputize any government office, entity, agency and public officer in the
12 implementation of all laws, decrees, letters of Instructions, general orders
13 pertinent to the rules and regulations issued by the Board;

14 6. Establish regional offices in such number and location as it will allow it to
15 perform the duties stated herein; and

16 6. Perform such other duties and exercise all other powers incidental or
17 necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the Board and proper
18 enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

19 *SEC. 5. Establishment of Athletes' Welfare Fund.* – The Athletes' Welfare Fund,
20 to be constituted from 1% of all receipts and income of the GAB, shall be established
21 and managed by the GAB for the benefit of athletes who sustain injuries or die in the
22 practice of their profession, or in such other cases as the GAB may deem fit, except if
23 the disability or death is a result of an unauthorized or illegally-conducted professional
24 sports activity.

25 The GAB shall develop a program for immediate financial and medical
26 assistance to deserving indigent athletes suffering from injuries and emergencies
27 related to their profession.

1 The GAB shall likewise be authorized to receive in trust any donation,
2 endowment or contribution to the athletes' welfare fund.

3 SEC. 6. *Admission in any Event, Game or Exhibition Venue.* - The following
4 persons are prohibited from admission in the premises where a professional sporting
5 event, game, or exhibition is being conducted:

6 (i) Persons carrying firearms or deadly weapons of any description,
7 except officials in the performance of their official
8 functions, security personnel;

9 (ii) Intoxicated persons;

10 (iii) Persons of disorderly nature and conduct who are apt to disturb
11 peace and order;

12 (iv) For professional boxing, combat sports, jai alai and cockfighting,
13 persons under eighteen (18) years of age, except when
14 accompanied by an adult.

15 (v) For other professional sports, persons under thirteen (13) years
16 of age, except when accompanied by an adult.

17
18 It shall also be the duty of GAB to ensure that the person, entity or association
19 conducting the professional sporting event, competition or exhibition complies with
20 the rules and regulations enacted by the Movie and Television Review and
21 Classification Board (MTRCB) with regard to the public exhibition, viewing or live-
22 streaming of professional sports and related events over national television.

23 24 **PROFESSIONAL BOXING AND OTHER CONTACT SPORTS**

25 SEC. 7. *Measures to be Undertaken Before, During, and After Each Match.* -

26 The GAB shall implement the appropriate measures to be undertaken before, during
27 and after each match of boxing or contact sports to ensure the safety of all boxers,
28 wrestlers and fighters, to include but not limited to, the presence of a licensed
29 physician in every event, regular medical tests and mandatory rest periods for
30 athletes; *Provided*, that all government hospitals, laboratories, clinics and medical

1 installations catering to the public shall provide free annual laboratory tests, when
2 necessary, to indigent boxers, wrestlers and fighters, upon proper certification by the
3 GAB.

4 SEC. 8. *Age of Contestants.* – No contestant under the age of eighteen (18)
5 years shall be licensed as a professional boxer, wrestler or fighter. The GAB may,
6 under exceptional circumstances, allow a minor, but not less than sixteen (16) years
7 of age, to apply for a license and participate in a professional boxing, wrestling or
8 mixed martial arts match upon written consent of the minor's parents or in the
9 absence thereof, the court appointed legal guardian.

10

11

HORSE RACING

12 SEC. 9. *Establishment of Off-Track Betting (OTB) Station* - The GAB may
13 authorize the establishment of Off-Track Betting (OTB) station anywhere in the
14 Philippines, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions set by the GAB:
15 *Provided,* That no OTB shall be allowed to be established, maintained and/or operated less
16 than three hundred (300) meters from any schools or learning institutions and churches or
17 places of worship actively and currently being used as such: *Provided further,* That No OTB
18 station shall be established and operated nor shall any betting be conducted through
19 the telephone, the Internet and other electronic means such as short messaging
20 service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar platforms without the
21 authority issued by the GAB.

22 SEC. 10. *Records of Tickets Sold.* – No person, entity or association may
23 operate a race-track, racing club, or any venue for holding horse races may operate
24 without an automatic, electrically-operated public indicator system and ticket-selling
25 machines, by means of which every ticket purchased on every horse in any race, shall
26 be automatically and instantaneously recorded by electrical impulse on a prominently-
27 displayed bulletin board, each figure, letter, or symbol of which shall be readable from
28 a distance.

1 SEC. 11. *Track Auditors and Checkers.* – The GAB shall appoint such number
2 of auditing officers and checkers as may be necessary to be placed in the race track,
3 racing club or any venue for holding horse races who shall be responsible for the
4 proper reporting of ticket sales, wagers and dividends through a system that
5 computes the total wager and dividends paid per race such as, but not limited to,
6 employing a totalizator sales or any other means.

7 SEC. 12. *Betting.* – The face value of totalizator tickets for wager, whether for
8 win, place, or show, shall be the basis for the computation of dividends, and such
9 dividends shall be paid after eliminating fractions of Ten Centavos (P0.10). If no ticket
10 has been sold on a winning horse, whether for win, place or show, the dividends
11 corresponding to such race shall be paid out to the holders of tickets sold on the
12 horses that finished dead heat, or on the horse that finished next to that on which not
13 a single ticket was sold: *Provided,* That the owner of said winning horse shall be
14 entitled to the corresponding stake or prize.

15 SEC. 13. *Persons Prohibited from Betting.* – Owners and employees of racing
16 clubs or race tracks, persons or entities holding horse races, and their officials,
17 including stewards, judges, handicappers, jockeys, and starters shall not be permitted
18 to participate directly or indirectly, in the betting on races conducted in their own
19 race-tracks. GAB members, including GAB officials and employees, are likewise
20 prohibited from betting on any race.

21 SEC. 14. *Time for Running Daily Double Races; Posting of Ticket Sales.* – The
22 time for the running of the first race of any daily double event shall be determined by
23 the GAB depending upon the circumstances surrounding each racing day which shall
24 be announced to the public by the person, race track, racing club, or entity holding
25 the races through loudspeakers at the time of the selection of the races constituting
26 the daily double event, and the second race thereof shall be run not later than forty-
27 five minutes after the first race. The sale of tickets for the daily double races shall be
28 allowed after the Board or its authorized representatives have announced to the
29 public the two races constituting each daily double event. The number of tickets sold
30 on each horse in the two races of each daily double event and the totals thereof shall

1 be posted at conspicuous bulletin boards. This information shall also be given to the
2 public through loudspeakers. The closing of the sale of tickets for each event shall be
3 properly announced by the ringing of a bell, after which no more tickets shall be sold.

4 SEC. 15. *Distribution of Receipts.* – The total wager funds or gross receipts
5 from the sale of pari-mutuel tickets shall be apportioned as follows: eighty-seven and
6 one-half per centum (87.5%) shall be distributed in the form of dividends among
7 holders of win, place and show horses, as the case may be, in the regular races;
8 twelve and one-half per centum (12.5%) shall be set aside as the commission of the
9 person, race track, racing club, or any other entity conducting the races, which shall
10 include the amounts for the payment of authorized stakes or prizes for win, place and
11 show horses, and authorized bonuses for jockeys; and in the case of daily double
12 races, the gross receipts derived from the total sale of dally double tickets shall be
13 apportioned in the same manner as provided hereinabove, except that the eighty-
14 seven and one-half per centum (87.5%) of the gross receipts from the total sale of
15 daily double tickets shall be distributed in the form of dividends among the holders of
16 the winning combination of horses, that is, the two horses that won first place in the
17 two races, instead of among holders of win, place and show horses, as in the case of
18 regular races: *Provided, however,* That of the twelve and one-half per centum
19 (12.5%) representing the commission of the person, race-track, racing club, or any
20 other entity holding horse-racing an amount equivalent to one-half per centum
21 (0.5%) of the total wager funds or gross receipts from the sale of tickets shall be set
22 aside and turned over to the GAB by the person, race-track, racing club, or any other
23 entity holding the race as a special fund activity to cover the expenses and such other
24 purposes authorized under this Act. Any unexpended balance of this fund at the end
25 of each year in excess of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) shall be turned over to
26 the Bureau of Animal Industry to be used by the latter exclusively for the promotion
27 of horse breeding in the Philippines.

28 SEC. 16. *Unclaimed Dividends.* – All winning prizes or dividends unclaimed by
29 the winners within thirty (30) days from the date of the race shall be forfeited in favor
30 of the government, and collected by the GAB.

31

COCKFIGHTING

1
2 SEC. 17. *Ownership, Operation and Management of Cockpits.* Only Filipino
3 citizens, not otherwise disqualified by existing laws, shall be allowed to own, manage
4 and operate cockpits. Cooperative capitalization is encouraged.

5 SEC. 18. *Establishment of Cockpits.* Only one cockpit shall be allowed in each
6 city or municipality, except that in cities or municipalities with a population of over
7 one hundred thousand (100,000) as indicated in the latest national census of
8 population, two (2) cockpits may be established, maintained or operated, the location
9 of which shall be subject to the zoning ordinance of the LGU: *Provided*, That in the
10 absence of such zoning ordinance, no cockpits shall be established, maintained and/or
11 operated less than three hundred (300) meters away from any existing residential
12 area, schools or learning institutions and churches or places of worship actively and
13 currently being used as such: *Provided further*, That owners, lessees, or operators of
14 cockpits which are now in existence and do not conform to this requirement are given
15 three (3) years from the date of effectivity of this Act to comply herewith: *Provided*
16 *finally*, That an authorization fee in the amount of one hundred thousand pesos (Php
17 100,000.00) shall be charged by the GAB for each cockpit which shall allow for betting
18 or wager on its cockfights.

19 SEC. 19. *Establishment of Off-Cockpit Betting Stations (OCBS).* The GAB may
20 authorize the establishment of OCBS anywhere in the Philippines, subject to
21 compliance with the terms and conditions set by the GAB; *Provided*, no OCBS shall be
22 allowed to be established, maintained and/or operated less than three hundred (300)
23 meters from any schools or learning institutions and churches or places of worship
24 actively and currently being used as such: *Provided further*, That no OCBS shall be
25 established and operated, nor any betting through the telephone, the internet and
26 other electronic means such as short messaging service (SMS), mobile and desktop
27 applications and similar platforms be conducted, without a legislative franchise and
28 appropriate permits issued by the GAB: *Provided further*, That existing OCBS
29 transferring to another location shall be considered a new OCBS and shall be required
30 to comply with the requirements therefore: *Provided finally*, That an authorization fee

1 In the amount of one hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) shall be charged by
2 the GAB for each off-cockpit betting station.

3
4 **SEC. 20. *Holding of Cockfights.*** The GAB shall establish uniform rules and
5 regulations relative to the holding, methods, procedure, operations and conduct of
6 cockfighting to be observed by all the cockpits nationwide, as well as accreditation
7 and registration of cockpit personnel and association of cockpit owners, operators and
8 lessees, and the registration of fighting cocks: *Provided*, That cockfighting officials,
9 such as gaffers, referees, *mangagamot* or specialists, bet takers or promoters of local
10 cockfights shall not act as such in any cockfight herein authorized, without first
11 securing a license from the city or municipality where such cockfighting is held.
12 *Provided further*, That Gaffers, referees, *mangagamot* or specialists, bet takers or
13 promoters who shall engage in a cockfight held in a different municipality or city or in
14 International derbies shall secure a license from the GAB: *Provided*, however, That
15 GAB should extend due consideration on their capacity of the to pay.

16
17 **SEC. 21. *Scheduling of cockfights.*** The LGU shall set the frequency and
18 schedule of cockfights within its jurisdiction, taking into consideration the practical
19 preference of holding such on weekends and holidays: *Provided*, That no cockfights
20 may be held on December 30 (Rizal Day), June 12 (Philippine Independence Day)
21 November 30 (National Heroes Day), Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Election or
22 Referendum Day and during Registration Days for such election or referendum.
23 *Provided*, further, That the LGU may, through a special permit, authorize the holding
24 of a derby or derbies during special occasions and for special purposes: *Provided*,
25 however, that international derbies shall be under the sole and exclusive authority of
26 the GAB.

27 **SEC. 22. *International Cockfighting Events.*** - For international cockfighting
28 events, the GAB shall collect from the cockpit operator an amount equivalent to three
29 percent (3%) of all gate receipts collected at the entrance gates. The GAB shall also
30 collect from the cockpit operator the equivalent of 3% of its customary share from the
31 betting pool, otherwise known as the plazada, from every international cockfight.

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SEC. 23. *Collection of Bets and Wagers.* Subject to the approval of GAB, cockpits and off-cockpit betting stations shall develop a system for collection of bets and wagers, including "exotic bets", that will allow for the monitoring of the total amount of bets, wagers and dividend pay-offs for every cockfight. It shall submit to the GAB a quarterly report of all the bets, wagers and dividend pay-offs made for the cockfights it conducted. *Provided,* That one-half per centum (.5%) of the total bets or wager funds shall be set aside and remitted to the GAB, and made available to cover its expenses for the supervision and regulation of cockfights.

SEC. 24. *Other games during cockfights proscribed.* No gambling of any kind shall be permitted on the premises of a cockpit or place where a cockfight is held while a game is ongoing. The owner, manager or lessee of such cockpit and the violators of this injunction shall be criminally liable under the Anti-Gambling Law or Presidential Decree Number 1602 and other applicable laws.

SEC. 25. *Importation of Gamecocks.* The GAB shall prescribe policy guidelines for the issuance of permits by the Bureau of Animal Industry for the importation or entry of gamecocks into the country for breeding or competition purposes.

JAI ALAI

SEC. 26. *Establishment of Off-fronton Betting Stations.* - The GAB may authorize the establishment of off-fronton stations anywhere in the Philippines, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions set by the GAB: *Provided,* That no OCBS shall be allowed to be established, maintained and/or operated less than three hundred (300) meters from any schools or learning institutions and churches or places of worship actively and currently being used as such: *Provided,* That no off-fronton station shall be established and operated nor shall any betting be conducted through the telephone, the internet and other electronic means such as short messaging service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar platforms without the appropriate permits issued by the GAB.

1 SEC. 27. *Records of Tickets Sold.* – Any person or entity operating a fronton
2 wherein betting in any form is allowed shall install in its premises an automatic
3 electrically operated indicator system and ticket selling machine, which shall clearly
4 record each ticket purchased on every player in any game, the total number of tickets
5 sold on each event, as well as the dividends that correspond to holders of winning
6 numbers.

7 SEC. 28. *Track Auditors and Checkers.* – The GAB shall assign such number of
8 auditing officers and checkers as may be necessary which shall have the duty to
9 check up and correct any irregularity or any erroneous report or computation that
10 may be made by officials of the fronton, in connection with the reports on the sale of
11 tickets and the payment of dividends.

12 SEC. 29. *Distribution of Wager Funds.* – Unless otherwise provided for in the
13 their franchise, the total wager funds or gross receipts collected by duly authorized
14 jai-alai operators/clubs from the sale of the betting tickets shall be apportioned as
15 follows: a commission not exceeding ten and one-half per centum (10.5%) on the
16 total bets on each game or event shall be set aside for the person or entity operating
17 the fronton and four and one-half per centum (4.5%) of such bets shall be remitted
18 to the National Treasury for disposition as may be authorized by law or executive
19 order; and the balance or eighty-five per centum (85%) of the total bets shall be
20 distributed in the form of dividends among holders of "win" or "place" numbers or
21 holders of the winning combination or grouping of numbers, as the case may be:
22 *Provided, however,* That of the ten and one-half per centum (10.5%) representing
23 the commission of the person or entity operating the fronton, an amount equivalent
24 to one-half per centum (.5%) of the total bets or wager funds shall be set aside and
25 remitted to the GAB, and made available to cover its expenses for the supervision and
26 regulation of basque pelota games in frontons and off-frontons.

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28

ANTI –ILLEGAL GAMBLING UNIT

29

30 SEC. 30. *Enforcement and Investigation Division.* - There shall be an
31 Enforcement and Investigation Division that shall combat and prevent the existence

1 and proliferation of illegal bookie joints and other illegal forms of organized gambling
2 in professional sporting events, competitions or exhibitions.

3
4 **SEC. 31. *Creation of Anti-Illegal Gambling Unit.*** - To assist the GAB in its fight
5 against illegal bookie joints and other illegal forms of organized gambling in
6 professional sporting events, competitions or exhibitions, an Anti-Illegal Gambling Unit
7 (AIGU) is hereby created to be composed of personnel from GAB Enforcement and
8 Investigation Division and other organic personnel to be appointed by the GAB:
9 Provided, That the GAB-AIGU may request for operational assistance from
10 government agencies involved in gaming operations or law enforcement in the
11 exercise of its functions.

12
13 **SEC. 32. *Prosecution.*** The GAB-AIGU shall monitor the status of arrests made
14 and complaints filed to ensure that suspects are prosecuted. The GAB shall submit a
15 quarterly report on the operations of the GAB-AIGU to the Congress of the Philippines
16 and the Office of the President.

17
18 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

19 **SEC. 33. *Appropriations.*** – The amount needed to implement the provisions of
20 this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the GAB and
21 thereafter included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

22 **SEC. 34. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The GAB shall, within ninety
23 (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations
24 necessary to implement this Act.

25 **SEC. 35. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
26 to be unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
27 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

28 **SEC. 36. *Repealing Clause.*** – Presidential Decree No. 871, Executive Order No.
29 120 (s. 1948), Presidential Decree No. 449, Presidential Decree No. 1802, Executive
30 Order No. 135 (s. 1948). Sections 6 and 7 of Executive Order No. 392 (s. 1951), and

1 Sections 6,11,15,18, and 24 of Republic Act No. 309 are hereby repealed. All other
2 laws, orders and proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent
3 with or contrary to the provisions of this Act or its purposes are hereby amended or
4 modified accordingly.

5 SEC. 37. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

7 *Approved,*