



SENATE

S. No. 2077

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES
ON SPORTS, HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND FINANCE,
WITH SENATORS PACQUIAO, REVILLA JR., ZUBIRI,
TOLENTINO, DELA ROSA, LACSON, SOTTO III AND
DRILON AS AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING AND
COMBAT SPORTS COMMISSION AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

*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
2 the “Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission Act
3 of 2021”.

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the
5 State to promote sports to foster patriotism and
6 nationalism, accelerate social progress, promote human
7 development, and contribute to economic growth and
8 development.

1 The State shall provide focus to, and develop
2 excellence in, professional boxing and combat sports and
3 ensure the development and safety of Filipino professional
4 boxers and combatants.

5 It shall also support the growth of professional boxing
6 and combat sports industry, and shall promote the country
7 as an international/regional center for professional boxing
8 and combat sports competition, training, convention, and
9 tourism.

10 It shall also harness the participation, dedication and
11 technical expertise of stakeholders of the professional
12 boxing and combat sports industry.

13 Towards these ends, the State shall establish a
14 commission that will formulate and implement a national
15 policy for the development and growth of professional
16 boxing and combat sports.

17 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this
18 Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

19 (a) *Combat sports* refer to any of the following or a
20 combination of any of the following:

1 (1) Boxing or fist fighting in any of its styles;

2 (2) Kickboxing in any of its styles; and

3 (3) Any sport, martial art, or activity that involves, in
4 accordance with the applicable regulation, striking,
5 kicking, hitting, grappling, throwing and/or punching
6 opponents.

7 (b) *Commission* refers to the Philippine Boxing and
8 Combat Sports Commission, created under Section 4 of this
9 Act;

10 (c) *License* refers to a document, issued by the
11 Commission, authorizing a person or entity to perform
12 duties connected with professional boxing and combat
13 sports;

14 (d) *Manager* refers to a person who acts as an agent
15 or representative of a professional boxer or combatant, and
16 receives compensation for such acts;

17 (e) *Permit* refers to a document, issued by the
18 Commission, authorizing a person or entity to hold,
19 promote or engage in the conduct or operation of a
20 professional boxing or combat sports match;

1 (f) *Professional boxer* refers to a boxer who is issued a
2 license by the Commission to fight in a professional boxing
3 match for a sum of money or other compensation, such as a
4 salary or prize money;

5 (g) *Professional boxing match* refers to a boxing
6 match between professional boxers who shall receive
7 money or other compensation for fighting in said match,
8 but shall not refer to a boxing contest that is organized by
9 an amateur sports organization;

10 (h) *Professional combatant* refers to a person who is
11 issued a license by the Commission to fight in a
12 professional combat sports match for a sum of money or
13 other compensation, such as a salary or prize;

14 (i) *Professional combat sports match* refers to a sports
15 match between professional combatants who shall receive
16 money or other compensation for fighting in said match;
17 and

18 (j) *Promoter* refers to a person, group of persons, or an
19 entity, licensed as such by the Commission and primarily
20 responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing a

1 professional boxing or combat sports match. The term
2 "promoter" does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other
3 commercial establishment hosting or sponsoring a
4 professional boxing or combat sports match unless - (i) the
5 hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment is
6 primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and
7 producing the match; or (ii) there is no person, group of
8 persons, or any other entity, who is primarily responsible
9 for organizing, promoting, and producing the match.

10 SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Boxing and Combat*
11 *Sports Commission.* - To carry out the above declared
12 policies, the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports
13 Commission is hereby created. The Commission shall be
14 attached to the Games and Amusement Board (GAB) for
15 policy and program coordination.

16 SEC. 5. *Objectives.* - The Commission shall have the
17 following objectives:

18 (a) Support the continued growth of professional
19 boxing and combat sports in the country;

1 (b) Encourage the discovery, training and
2 development of world-class professional boxers and
3 combatants;

4 (c) Protect and enhance the welfare of professional
5 boxers and combatants; and

6 (d) In collaboration with the private sector, national
7 government agencies, and local government units (LGUs),
8 promote and make the country as an international/regional
9 center for professional boxing and combat sports
10 competition, training, convention, and tourism.

11 SEC. 6. *Composition.* – The Commission shall be
12 composed of the following: the GAB Chairperson as the
13 Chairperson, the Secretary of the Department of Health
14 (DOH) or his/her representative and three (3)
15 representatives from the professional boxing and combat
16 sports industry, as members: *Provided,* That all members
17 of the Commission shall have no conflict of interest
18 therein.

19 The representative of the Secretary of the DOH shall
20 have a rank not lower than a Bureau Director and must

1 have knowledge, experience or involved in sports medicine
2 and/or health emergency management.

3 The representatives of the professional boxing and
4 combat sports industry shall be selected and appointed by
5 the President of the Philippines from the nominees
6 submitted by the professional boxing and combat sports
7 industry.

8 SEC. 7. *Term of Office of the Private Sector*
9 *Representatives.* – The representatives of the professional
10 boxing and combat sports industry shall have a term of six
11 (6) years and may be reappointed by the President of the
12 Philippines. Any appointment to a vacancy in the position
13 of the representatives of the professional boxing and
14 combat sports industry that occurs before the expiration of
15 the term shall be for the unexpired portion of the term
16 only.

17 The industry representatives may be suspended or
18 removed by the President of the Philippines for just cause
19 as provided by law.

1 SEC. 8. *Meetings and Quorum.* – The Commission
2 shall meet regularly once a month or as often as the
3 exigencies of the service may demand, upon the call of the
4 Chairperson or upon the request of at least two (2)
5 members of the Commission. The vote of a majority of the
6 entire membership of the Commission shall be necessary
7 for the adoption of any rule, resolution, or decision.

8 SEC. 9. *Allowances and Per Diems.* – The Chairperson
9 and Members of the Commission shall be entitled to per
10 diems, allowances and other reimbursable expenses as
11 prescribed by the Department of Budget and Management
12 (DBM).

13 SEC. 10. *Powers and Duties of the Commission.* – The
14 Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

15 (a) Formulate, initiate, plan, and implement a
16 national policy for the growth of professional boxing and
17 combat sports, and the discovery, training and
18 development of professional boxers and combatants,
19 including the promotion of the participation of women in
20 professional boxing and combat sports;

1 (b) Formulate, promulgate, review, and update the
2 rules and procedures in order to regulate professional
3 boxing and combat sports, in conformity with international
4 standards;

5 (c) Establish rules, set requirements, and collect fees
6 for the grant or renewal of a license to a professional boxer,
7 combatant, coach, trainer, promoter, judge, referee, and
8 other ring officials and personnel, and for the issuance of a
9 permit for a professional boxing or combat sports match;

10 (d) For violation of any rule or requirement, including
11 the conditions for the issuance of a license or permit,
12 impose administrative fines and penalties, including the
13 suspension or revocation of a license or permit;

14 (e) Act as a quasi-judicial body and, on its own motion
15 or upon complaint of any interested party, initiate, hear,
16 and decide any investigation for any violation of its rules
17 and regulations and, in connection therewith, issue
18 subpoena *ad testificandum* and subpoena *duces tecum*;

19 (f) Determine and set safety standards, including the
20 presence and availability of emergency medical personnel

1 and services, in all professional boxing and combat sports
2 matches in the country;

3 (g) Establish a system of registration and licensing of
4 boxers, combatants, referees, trainers, seconds, cut man
5 and other ring officials and personnel;

6 (h) Maintain an integrated registry of professional
7 boxers, combatants, coaches, trainers, judges, referees,
8 promoters and other ring officials and personnel;

9 (i) Seek or request the assistance and support of any
10 government agency, office or instrumentality, including
11 government-owned or controlled corporations, LGUs as
12 well as nongovernmental organizations or institutions in
13 pursuit of its policies and programs;

14 (j) Establish a consultative mechanism, which shall
15 provide a forum for continuing dialogue between and
16 among all stakeholders, in the implementation of all laws,
17 policies, programs, and projects relating to professional
18 boxing and combat sports;

19 (k) Establish and maintain linkages with
20 international boxing and combat sports organizations or

1 institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign
2 governments, including the hosting of international
3 conventions and conferences, for the enhancement of
4 standards and regulations on the conduct of professional
5 boxing and combat sports matches, on facilities and
6 equipment used therein, and the participation of
7 professional boxers and combatants, particularly of
8 Filipino professional boxers and combatants in
9 international events;

10 (l) Allocate resources for the implementation of
11 national policies and programs related to professional
12 boxers and combatants;

13 (m) Submit an annual report on the implementation
14 of this Act to the President and to Congress; and

15 (n) Perform such other powers and functions as may
16 be necessary to effectively and efficiently carry out the
17 provisions of this Act.

18 SEC. 11. *Organizational Structure.* – Subject to the
19 approval of the DBM, the Commission shall determine its
20 organizational structure and staffing pattern, create

1 offices, divisions, or units as it may deem necessary, and
2 appoint its officers and employees in accordance with civil
3 service laws, rules and regulations. The remuneration
4 structure for the positions in the staffing pattern shall
5 strictly conform to Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known
6 as the "Compensation and Position Classification Act of
7 1989", as amended.

8 SEC. 12. *Executive Director.* – The Commission shall
9 have a full-time Executive Director who shall be
10 responsible for implementing the policies, rules,
11 regulations and directives of the Commission; the
12 management of the Commission's daily operations; and for
13 coordinating and supervising the activities of the different
14 offices, divisions, and units of the Commission.

15 The Executive Director shall have a term of six (6)
16 years and may be reappointed. He shall be appointed by
17 the President of the Philippines upon the nomination of the
18 Commission.

19 The nominee to the Executive Director position must
20 be of known probity and integrity and shall have nationally

1 recognized experience and comprehensive knowledge in
2 professional boxing and combat sports, and preferably has
3 relevant experience in the management of a government
4 regulatory agency, policy formulation, adjudication, and
5 program and project delivery and management.

6 SEC. 13. *Physical, Medical and Neurologic*
7 *Examination Requirements.* – No person or entity can
8 arrange, promote, organize, or produce a professional
9 boxing and combat sports match without a physical,
10 medical, neurologic and other diagnostic examinations
11 being conducted on each participating professional boxer or
12 combatant by a licensed physician, who is recognized by
13 the Commission. The recognized licensed physician shall
14 likewise certify that the professional boxer or combatant is
15 physically fit to safely compete, in compliance with the
16 requirements of the Commission.

17 SEC. 14. *Mandatory Rest Period.* – There shall be an
18 interval in which professional boxers and combatants can
19 compete in boxing contests and combat sports matches,
20 which shall be referred to as mandatory rest period. The

1 duration of the mandatory rest period shall be determined
2 by the Commission.

3 SEC. 15. *Emergency Medical Services.* — A
4 professional boxing and combat sports match may be held
5 only if:

6 (a) A licensed practicing physician, whose services are
7 paid by the promoter and duly registered with the
8 Commission, is continuously present at the ringside of the
9 professional boxing and combat sports match;

10 (b) Ambulance services, with appropriate equipment
11 and competent personnel, shall be made available within
12 the immediate vicinity of the ring by DOH-accredited
13 ambulance service providers; and

14 (c) A tertiary hospital is near the vicinity of the event.

15 The absence of any of the aforementioned
16 requirements shall be a cause for the non-issuance or the
17 immediate cancellation of the permit to hold the
18 professional boxing and combat sports match.

19 SEC. 16. *Social Pension and Health Care Benefits.* —

20 All professional boxers and combatants shall be enrolled

1 with the Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Health
2 Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the Home
3 Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or PAG-IBIG, and
4 shall be entitled to all the benefits in accordance with the
5 pertinent provisions of law. The enrollment of professional
6 boxers and combatants with, and the remittance of
7 mandatory contributions to, these government agencies
8 shall be done by the manager of the professional boxer or
9 combatant: *Provided*, That in case the professional boxer or
10 combatant is not represented by a manager, it is the
11 professional boxer or combatant who shall register and
12 remit his or her mandatory contributions.

13 The SSS shall develop and administer a separate
14 social security program for professional boxers and
15 combatants. This program, subject to actuarial studies,
16 may have different contribution, pension, and other benefit
17 schemes.

18 The SSS, PhilHealth, and HDMF, to the extent that
19 their charters and relevant laws may permit, shall develop

1 a discounted or subsidized contribution scheme for female
2 professional boxers and combatants.

3 SEC. 17. *Exemption from Travel Taxes and Fees.* – A
4 three-man professional boxing or combat sports delegation,
5 composed of the professional boxer or combatant, the
6 promoter or manager, and the trainer, to any international
7 competition shall be exempt from the payment of travel
8 tax, airport tax and any other travel related taxes or fees
9 now or hereafter imposed by law or regulation.

10 SEC. 18. *Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired*
11 *and/or Injured Professional Boxers and Combatants.* – The
12 Commission, in coordination with various stakeholders in
13 the professional boxing and combat sports industry, with
14 the assistance of other government agencies and LGUs,
15 shall establish or spearhead an alternative livelihood
16 training program for retired and/or injured professional
17 boxers and combatants, priority to which shall be accorded
18 to women professional boxers and combatants.

19 SEC. 19. *Compensation of Professional Boxing and*
20 *Combat Sports Officials.* – All professional boxing and

1 combat sports officials involved in any match shall not
2 receive funds or compensation in any form, directly or
3 indirectly, from the promoter or its agents. Such funds or
4 compensation shall be coursed through and collected by the
5 Commission for appropriate disbursement.

6 SEC. 20. *Professional Boxers and Combatants Welfare*
7 *Development Trust Fund.* – A Professional Boxers and
8 Combatants Welfare Development Trust Fund is hereby
9 established to complement the budget for welfare benefits
10 and enhance and uplift the social and economic
11 opportunities and conditions of present and former
12 professional boxers and combatants, including, but not
13 limited to, medical and health services; housing and
14 livelihood assistance; and financial assistance for
15 education and capability building/training. The
16 Commission is authorized to accept donations from the
17 private sector for the Professional Boxers and Combatants
18 Welfare Development Trust Fund. The Commission shall
19 set the qualifications and requirements in the
20 disbursement of the Trust Fund.

1 It shall be administered by the Commission as a
2 special account in any government bank. It shall be funded
3 from administrative fines imposed by the Commission, and
4 contributions in the form of endowments, grants and
5 donations to the Trust Fund, which shall be exempted from
6 donor and other taxes, charges or fees imposed by the
7 government: *Provided*, That in cases of donations from
8 foreign governments or other foreign institutions,
9 acceptance thereof shall be subject to the approval of the
10 President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the
11 Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

12 SEC. 21. *Transitory Provisions.* - Upon the
13 organization of the Commission, the Boxing and Contact
14 Sports Division of the GAB shall be abolished: *Provided*,
15 That its powers and functions shall be absorbed by the
16 Commission: *Provided, further*, That the officers and
17 employees thereof shall continue in a holdover capacity
18 until such time as the new officers and employees of the
19 Commission shall have been duly appointed pursuant to
20 the provisions of this Act. All qualified regular or

1 permanent employees who may be transferred to the
2 Commission shall not suffer any loss in seniority or rank or
3 decrease in emoluments. Any employee who cannot be
4 absorbed by the Commission shall be entitled to a
5 separation pay under existing retirement laws.

6 All other functions, appropriations, funds, records,
7 equipment, facilities, and other assets of the GAB that are
8 pertaining to the development and regulation of
9 professional boxing and combat sports shall be transferred
10 to the Commission.

11 SEC. 22. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to
12 fund the implementation of this Act shall be included in
13 the annual General Appropriations Act.

14 SEC. 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* –
15 Within ninety (90) days from the start of the effectivity of
16 this Act, the Commission shall, upon consultation with
17 national government agencies, LGUs, and the different
18 stakeholders in the professional boxing and combat sports
19 industry, promulgate the implementing rules and
20 regulations of this Act.

1 SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential
2 decrees or issuances, executive orders, rules or regulations,
3 or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of
4 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

5 SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or
6 provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or
7 invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected
8 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

9 SEC. 26. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take
10 effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the
11 *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general
12 circulation.

Approved,