


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

7 JUL 24 1914

SENATE
S. B. No. 1333



RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One sport where Filipinos have shown a good chance of excelling and attaining world prominence is in boxing. Many of our countrymen have made the nation proud by becoming world champions. Considering that it is a physically challenging sport, one that exposes them to physical injuries, there is a need to safeguard their health and safety.

This bill seeks to establish and provide for the implementation of health and safety standards relating to the conduct of professional boxing matches.*


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO


* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT
2 TO PROVIDE FOR HEALTH AND WORK SAFETY STANDARDS
3 FOR PROFESSIONAL BOXERS

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be cited as the “Professional Boxing Safety
7 Act.”

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – One of the objectives of the State is to promote
9 health and safety standards particularly in the field of sports. Boxing, being a sport where a
10 player is susceptible to injury, requires government regulation and safety standards.

11 SECTION 3. *Definitions of Terms.* – For the purpose of this Act, the term:

- 12 (A) “Boxer” means a person who participates in a professional boxing match;
- 13 (B) “Licensee” means an individual who serves as trainer, second, or cut man for a
14 professional boxer;
- 15 (C) “Manager” means a person or business that helps arrange professional boxing
16 matches for a boxer, and that serves as an advisor or representative of a boxer in a
17 professional capacity;
- 18 (D) “Matchmaker” means a person or business that proposes, selects, and arranges the
19 boxers to participate in a professional boxing match;
- 20 (E) “Professional boxing” match means a boxing contest held between individuals for
21 compensation or a prize, except amateur boxing contests;
- 22 (F) “Promoter” means a person or business that organizes, holds, advertises, or otherwise
23 conducts a professional boxing match; and

1 (G) "Games and Amusement Board" means a government agency that has the authority
2 to regulate professional boxing. It shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Board."

3 SECTION 4. *Professional Boxing Matches.* —

4 (A) *In General.* — A professional boxing match may be held only if—

5 (1) A licensed practicing physician, whose services are paid by the promoter, is
6 continuously present at the ringside of the professional boxing match;

7 (2) The promoter has, in accordance with this subsection, provided—

8 (a) For a physical examination of each boxer who participate in the
9 professional boxing match by a licensed practicing physician, to
10 ensure that each boxer is physically fit to compete in the boxing
11 match; and

12 (b) For an ambulance to be continuously present at the site of the boxing
13 match;

14 (3) The Board has established procedures to carry out Sections 5 through 8 of this
15 Act.

16 (B) *Ambulance Service.* —

17 (1) *In General.* — If the promoter for that boxing match does not choose to provide
18 for such ambulance, the promoter shall, not later than 24 hours before that
19 boxing match, notify the nearest available ambulance service, including any
20 appropriate emergency medical service of that boxing match.

21 (2) *Costs.* — The promoter for a professional boxing match shall pay the cost of any
22 ambulance service provided in conjunction with the conduct of that boxing
23 match.

24 (3) *Cancellation of Professional Boxing Matches.* — If the Board issued a certificate
25 with a private boxing organization, notwithstanding that certificate, the Board
26 may cancel a professional boxing match without consulting the private
27 organization if the Board or its appointed officials determines that—

- 1 (a) The private professional boxing organization is not performing the
2 obligations of that organization that are specified in the contract in a
3 manner that is satisfactory to the chairman of the Board; or
4 (b) The cancellation of the professional boxing match is necessary to protect
5 public health, safety, or welfare.

6 SECTION 5. *Registration.* –

7 (A) *Registration.* – Each professional boxer shall register with the Board.

8 (B) *Identification Card.* –

9 (1) *Issuance.* – The Board shall issue to each professional boxer who registers in
10 accordance with Paragraph (A), an identification card that contains—

11 (a) A recent photograph of the boxer; and

12 (b) Each personal identification number assigned to the boxer by the
13 Board.

14 (2) *Renewal.* – Each professional boxer shall renew his or her identification card
15 every two (2) years.

16 (C) *Relation to Government Rules and Regulations.* – Nothing in this section shall be
17 construed as preventing the government from applying additional registration
18 requirements.

19 SECTION 6. *Review.* – The Board shall establish procedures—

20 (A) To evaluate the professional records of each boxer participating in a boxing match;

21 (B) To ensure that no boxer is permitted to box while under suspension as meted by the
22 Board due to injury or other medical reasons, including—

23 (1) A recent knockout, injury, or requirement for a medical procedure;

24 (2) Failure of a drug test;

25 (3) Poor boxing skills, or the inability to safely compete; or

26 (4) The use of false aliases, or falsifying, or attempting to falsify, official
27 identification cards or documents.

1 SECTION 7. *Insurance.* – The Board, in carrying out the regulation of professional
2 boxing matches, shall require that a promoter provide insurance coverage, in an amount
3 determined by the appropriate government office, for each boxer who participates in a
4 professional boxing match that the promoter involved is conducting, to cover an injury sustained
5 while engaged in that match.

6 SECTION 8. *Reporting.* –

7 (A) *Boxing Match Results.* – Not later than 48 business hours (excluding Saturdays and
8 Sundays) after the conclusion of a professional boxing match, the results of such
9 boxing match shall be reported to the Board.

10 (B) *Suspension.* – Not later than forty eight (48) business hours (excluding Saturdays and
11 Sundays) after the Board orders the suspension of a boxer, promoter, or manager,
12 such suspension shall be reported to professional boxing associations and other
13 associations involved in professional boxing in the Philippines.

14 SECTION 9. *Enforcement.*

15 (A) *Injunctions.* – Whenever the Chairman of the Board has reasonable cause to believe
16 that a person or entity is engaged in a violation of this Act, the Chairman or its
17 representative may bring a civil action in the appropriate court requesting such
18 relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other
19 order, against the person or entity, as the Chairman determines to be necessary to
20 restrain the person or entity from continuing to engage in, or to sanction, a
21 professional boxing match in violation of this Act.

22 (B) *Criminal Penalties.* –

23 (1) *Managers, Promoters, Matchmakers and Licensees.* – Each manager, promoter,
24 matchmaker, or licensee who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of
25 this Act shall, upon conviction, be imposed the penalty of imprisonment for not
26 more than one (1) year or a fine of not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos
27 (P100,000.00), or both.

1 (2) *Boxers.* – Any professional boxer who knowingly and willfully violates any
2 provision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than Five
3 Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

4 SECTION 10. *Consultation.* – Not later than one (1) year after the date of enactment of
5 this Act, and annually thereafter, to exchange information concerning the implementation and
6 enforcement of this Act and to improve the safety and integrity of professional boxing as a sport,
7 the Board shall consult with—

8 (A) The appropriate officials of the government; and

9 (B) Private organizations that assist in the regulation of professional boxing matches.

10 SECTION 11. *Pension Study.* — The Secretary of Labor shall conduct a study on the
11 feasibility and cost of a national pension system for professional boxers, including potential
12 funding sources.

13 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor
14 shall submit a report to the Congress on the findings of the study conducted pursuant to this
15 Section.

16 SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid
18 and subsisting.

19 SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
20 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
21 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

22 SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

24 Approved,