


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

7 AUG -1 P6:21

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 1424

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Though not yet officially recognized, Arnis has been widely accepted as the *de facto* Philippine National Sport in many regional as well as national athletic competitions. Modern Arnis is now also recognized as a distinct focus of martial arts, side by side with Karate, Judo, Taekwondo and the like, here and abroad.

In the same manner that we have a National Anthem, a National Flag, a National Fruit and other national symbols that give the Filipinos an identity distinct from other people from different countries, it is only sound and logical that we also have a national sport that would set our athletes apart from other competing teams in International Sports Competitions.

Not only will a declaration of a national sport give our athletes a national identity, it will also instill in our people a sense of nationalism, patriotism and national unity. Subsequently, this will give a recognition to a sport that has always been a part of the Philippine sports scene and an appreciation of the significance of this national symbol.

Arnis is a sport that is indigenous and uniquely Filipino. Among the many games in the country, it can be considered as one of our national cultural gems that completely originated from the Philippines.

This art was practiced primarily for self-defense by the Filipinos during the pre-Spanish period. While during the Spanish period, Arnis was used to fight against the Spanish invaders. The Filipinos stand against the superiorly armed adversaries in mortal combat in the areas of battle is now held in immortal inviolability by history. It would not be far-fetched to surmise that one of the earliest Filipino heroes, Lapu-Lapu, was an Arnis expert.

The timing for the passage of this bill could never be more opportune, for this is the time when asserting our national identity is a collective sentiment of the Filipino.

Thus, urgent approval of this bill is requested.




JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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

7 AUG -1 P6:21

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1424

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

**AN ACT
DECLARING ARNIS AS THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SPORT**

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

1 SECTION 1. It is the policy of the State to inculcate patriotism, nationalism and
2 appreciation of the role of national heroes and symbols in the historical development of
3 the country. Furthermore, the State must give priority to education, science and
4 technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate
5 social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

6 SECTION 2. Arnis is hereby declared as the Philippine National Sport. The
7 official adoption of arnis as the national sport shall be promulgated by inscribing the
8 symbol of arnis in the official seal of the Philippine Sports Commission.

9 SECTION 3. The Department of Education and the Philippine Sports
10 Commission shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the
11 provisions of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. Any provision of law, decree, executive order, rule or regulation in
13 conflict or inconsistent with the provisions and/or purposes of this Act are hereby
14 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
16 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
17 circulation.

18 Approved,