

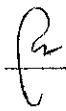
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

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SENATE
S.B. No. 2906

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator **JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2, Section 17 of the Constitution provides that the "State shall give priority to education, science and technology, art, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."

Our country has gained as much success as our athletes have when participating in international sports. Filipino athletes are a source of national pride. They deserve more than the admiration of our citizens. Their efforts should not go unnoticed.

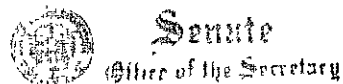
This bill seeks to provide retirement and health benefits Filipino athletes who have brought honor to the country. This bill also provides a monthly pension to former world champions as well as hospitalization and medical benefits. This bill will also encourage other citizens to join in increasing their overall health through sports and sports competitions.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is sought.


HON. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

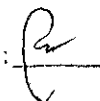
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**AN ACT
GRANTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS TO
PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO HAVE WON WORLD TITLES OR
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Filipino Professional Athletes Retirement Incentive and Health Care Benefits Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall provide retirement incentive and health care benefits to professional Filipino athletes, who win World Titles or World Championships or equally prestigious world championship games, in both individual or team events, in recognition of the glory and honor they earned their country and who in their twilight years are unable to provide for themselves and their families economically and are marginalized.

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

(a) **Professional Athlete.** - shall refer to any natural person who is paid a sum of money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a game, bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either as an individual

contestant or member of a team under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter / operator or team owner and licensed by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB);

(b) Filipino athlete. - shall refer to professional athlete who is a citizen of the Philippines, except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of Republic Act No. 9225 otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003";

(c) Professional Sport. - shall refer to an individual or team sport, games, contest, bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money and other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which are conducted with the required permits duly issued by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB);

(d) International competitions. - shall refer to international sports competitions, including Regional Championships, which are accredited and duly recognized by the Games and Amusements Board;

(e) Recognized sporting international organizations. - shall refer to international bodies that are recognized, accredited, have mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or memorandum of understanding with the Games and Amusements Board (GAB).

SEC. 4. Retirement Incentive Benefits. - Professional Filipino athletes who have won individual or team world titles / championships in any international sports competitions duly sanctioned by recognized international sporting organizations and bodies shall receive the following retirement incentive benefits;

a. Any individual who have won world title/s or championship/s shall receive a lifetime retirement incentive of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000) monthly upon reaching the age of fifty (50).

b. Each member of a team who has won a world title or championship in any team sporting event shall receive a lifetime retirement incentive of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) monthly upon reaching the age of fifty (50).

Provided, however, that only those athletes who at the time of their retirement earns less than the minimum daily wage as prescribed by the National Wages and Productivity Commission, shall be entitled to the retirement incentive benefits provided herein.

Provided, further, that athletes who are actively employed upon reaching the age of fifty (50) and have availed of the retirement incentive benefits may continue with such employment until the mandatory retirement age under existing laws.

SEC. 5. Health Care Benefits. - A professional athlete who has won in an international sports competition shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) as provided under Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, within two months upon conferment of the award.

In case of hospitalization in any government hospital or clinic, any amount in excess of PHILHEALTH benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), provided that the athlete shall comply with the requirement for qualification and grant of health care assistance to be extended by the PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to compliance with PCSO's existing rules and guidelines.

SEC. 6. Retroactive Effect. - The benefits provided under this Act shall retroact to all living professional athletes who prior to the enactment of this Act, have won in any international sports event after complying with the requirements that shall be prescribed by the GAB in its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Provided that the winning professional athlete was duly licensed by the GAB at the time of the completion and the sports event participated in was recognized and accredited by the GAB.

SEC.7. Adjustment Retirement Incentive Benefits. - The Games and Amusements Board is hereby authorized to adjust the retirement incentive

benefits provided in Section 4 hereof, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with relevant agencies and entities. However, no memorandum, order, or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement incentive benefits.

SEC. 8. Funding. - The amount necessary for the implementation of the retirement incentive benefits shall be taken from the net cash income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). For this purpose, the GAB shall submit to the PAGCOR an annual budget, together with a certified list of actual beneficiaries of the program, for the proper disbursement of funds. Such funds shall be subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) shall provide the necessary funds as provided under Section 5 hereof.

The necessary funding for the PHILHEALTH coverage of the qualified professional athletes shall be charged to the current appropriations of the GAB. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- The Games and Amusements Board, in coordination with concerned agencies shall promulgate and issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least three (3) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,