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SENATE

S. B. No. **3168**

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Palarong Pambansa (Palaro) serves as a national sports event for students from competitions starting at the school, then provincial, and finally from regional levels emerging to participate. In effect, the Palaro is a culmination for student-athletes and determines the champion in each sporting event, and thereby carries tremendous pride for all participants.

Thus, the Palaro serves as a medium for imbibing sportsmanship nationwide, and also promotes the total development of students as athletes. The Palaro has also been a venue for further development and has been a feeder for participants to get into colleges and universities, where outstanding performers are recruited and given scholarships and further training, eventually being able to represent the country in various international sport competitions.

However, the Palaro has been marred in the past by funding problems, promotion difficulties, and cancellations. This bill seeks to remedy the situation by institutionalizing the Palarong Pambansa and provide funding, administration and hosting support among others.



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

S. No. **3168**

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONDUCT OF THE PALARONG
PAMBANSA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 Section 1. *Short Title* - This Act shall be known as the "Palarong Pambansa Act".

2 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. - It is the policy of the State to promote physical
3 education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports,
4 including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and
5 excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry through the
6 institutionalization of the Palarong Pambansa as the country's premier national sporting
7 event. Hence, it shall be a declared policy of the State to support programs that will
8 improve and promote Palarong Pambansa as the primary avenue for providing in-
9 school sports opportunities to improve the physical, moral, intellectual and social well-
10 being of the youth. All educational institutions are therefore directed to promote
11 physical education and undertake regular sports activities as well as support the local
12 meets and the Palarong Pambansa.

13 Sec. 3. *Objectives* - The objectives of this Act are the following:

1 (a) To institutionalize the Palarong Pambansa as the premier national
2 sporting event of the country under the Department of Education (DepEd)
3 as a venue for talent identification, selection and recruitment of student
4 athletes;

5 (b) To improve the DepEd's national school sports program and give more
6 prestige to the annual sports event by encouraging better participation of
7 schools through incentives and rewards; and

8 (c) To encourage the local government units (LGUs) to take a pro-active role
9 particularly in the promotion of the Palarong Pambansa locally and
10 nationally by providing incentives and rewards .

11 ARTICLE II

12 ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PALARONG
13 PAMBANSA
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15 Sec. 4. *Palarong Pambansa Board* - A Palarong Pambansa Board, hereinafter
16 referred to as the "Board", is hereby created as the lead policy-making and coordinating
17 body for the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa. The Board shall be attached to the
18 Department of Education and shall be the proprietary owner of the words "Palarong
19 Pambansa" and its related symbols, logos, and concept.

20 The Members of the Board shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual traveling
21 and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as Members of the
22 Palarong Pambansa Board subject to pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

23 Sec. 5. *Membership of the Board* - The Palarong Pambansa Board shall have eleven
24 (11) members composed of the following:

25 (a) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) - Chairperson

26 (b) Four (4) Undersecretaries of the DepEd

- 1 (c) Three (3) Assistant Secretaries of the DepEd
- 2 (d) Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)
- 3 (e) President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)
- 4 (f) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

5 Sec. 6. *Functions and Duties of the Board* - The Board shall have the following
6 functions and duties:

- 7 (a) To formulate policies and guidelines that shall govern the conduct of the
8 Palarong Pambansa and other related school sports activities leading to the
9 Palarong Pambansa;
- 10 (b) To review and update regularly the rules and regulations of sports
11 included in the Palarong Pambansa in accordance with international
12 standards;
- 13 (c) To develop and recommend programs and policies that will promote the
14 Palarong Pambansa and increase the awareness of the public, encourage
15 schools to participate and improve their performance in sports and
16 physical education, as well as encourage the LGUs to support and promote
17 the country's premier sports event;
- 18 (d) To provide incentives and rewards to participating schools and LGUs
19 including medal winners;
- 20 (e) To formulate and issue policies and guidelines on the accreditation of
21 athletes, coaches and chaperones;
- 22 (f) To create the Palarong Pambansa Communications Task Force;
- 23 (g) To create the National Screening and Accreditation Committee ;

- 1 (h) To develop marketing strategies to generate funds and promote the
2 Palarong Pambansa including, but not limited to, royalties, merchandising
3 and advertisements;
- 4 (i) To allocate funds for the conduct of school sports activities leading to the
5 Palarong Pambansa;
- 6 (j) To formulate and issue the criteria for the selection of host LGU and
7 approve bids to host the Palarong Pambansa;
- 8 (k) To set the date of the staging of the Palarong Pambansa;
- 9 (l) To identify the sports to be included in the Palarong Pambansa;
- 10 (m) To appoint a Secretary-General of the Palarong Pambansa;
- 11 (n) To enter into contracts or obligations essential for the proper
12 accomplishment of its purposes and objectives;
- 13 (o) To conduct regular inventory of existing sports facilities, venues, and
14 equipment throughout the country;
- 15 (p) To formulate guidelines for the conduct of sports events for students with
16 disability;
- 17 (q) To assess the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa and submit an annual
18 report to Congress ; and
- 19 (r) To exercise such other acts as may be necessary for the effective
20 implementation of this Act.

21 *Sec. 7. Secretary-General* - A Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Board
22 from among the Members of the Board representing the DepEd. The Secretary-General
23 shall recommend to the Board the constitution of the Secretariat and all the activities
24 undertaken by the latter requiring the utilization of funds. The Secretariat, which shall

1 come from the existing personnel of the DepEd, PSC and DILG, shall manage the
2 conduct of the Palarong Pambansa and other sports activities leading to the Palarong
3 Pambansa.

4 Sec. 8. *Regional Athletics Associations (RAAs)* - The DepEd Regional Offices shall
5 organize the RAAs which shall supervise the conduct of the regional meets and
6 organize their respective regional delegations to the Palarong Pambansa.

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ARTICLE III
HOSTING OF PALARONG PAMBANSA

12 SEC. 9. *Hosting of the Palarong Pambansa* - The hosting of the Palarong Pambansa
13 shall be determined by bidding and guided by the principle of rotation among the
14 following geographical clusters : Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

15 Two (2) adjoining LGUs may host the Palarong Pambansa: *Provided, That,* one of
16 the host LGUs does not have available venues and facilities to accommodate all the
17 sports events.

18 SEC. 10. *Criteria for the Selection of the Palarong Pambansa Host LGU* - The Board
19 shall formulate the criteria for the selection of the host LGU, which shall take into
20 consideration the existing sports facilities, capacity to accommodate the participants and
21 guests, security, peace and order situation, and the need of the LGU for an opportunity
22 to promote and showcase its socio-economic-cultural characteristics through the
23 Palarong Pambansa. *Provided, That,* LGUs with existing sports facilities shall be given
24 priority .

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ARTICLE IV
PROMOTION OF THE PALARONG PAMBANSA

27 SEC. 11. *Incentives for Host LGU and Participating Schools* -

1 (a) Host LGU - The Board shall come up with incentives for the winning host
2 LGU to encourage more LGUs to bid in the hosting of the Palarong Pambansa.

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4 (b) Schools with students who are participating in the Palarong Pambansa -
5 The Board shall provide incentives for schools with students representing their
6 respective regions in the Palarong Pambansa. Incentives shall include, but not be
7 limited to, financial support for additional scholarships and improvement of their
8 sports and physical education program.

9 SEC. 12. *Promotion of Palarong Pambansa* - The Board shall create the Palarong
10 Pambansa Communications Task Force with the following duties and responsibilities :

11 (a) Formulation of marketing and communications plan to ensure the promotion
12 of the Palarong Pambansa and encourage LGUs to bid in the hosting of the
13 event and for schools to improve their sports and physical education
14 programs with the aim to send representative athletes in the Palarong
15 Pambansa;

16 (b) Ensure the coverage of the Palarong Pambansa in both the national and local
17 media;

18 (c) Enter into sponsorship, merchandising and royalty agreements with private
19 entities as additional source of funds for the Palarong Pambansa;

20 The Task Force shall be composed of representatives from the following
21 government agencies:

22 (a) Department of Education (DepEd)

23 (b) Philippine Information Agency (PIA)

24 (c) Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)

1 (d) DepEd Regional Offices

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ARTICLE V
ELIGIBILITY AND ACCREDITATION

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Sec. 13. *National Screening and Accreditation Committee (NSAC)* - The Board shall
6 constitute the National Screening and Accreditation Committee that will evaluate, and
7 verify the authenticity of the documents submitted by the athletes, coaches and
8 chaperones applying for accreditation. NSAC shall accredit qualified athletes, coaches
9 and chaperones and shall submit a masterlist to the Board at least two (2) months before
10 the Palarong Pambansa.

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Sec. 14. *Composition of NSAC* - The NSAC shall be composed of the following:

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(a) Representative from the DepEd Legal Division

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(b) Two (2) government physicians

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(c) Two (2) government dentists

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(d) Authorized representative from each RAA

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SEC. 15. *Protests on Eligibility and Appeals on Disqualification* - The Board shall issue
17 guidelines on the process of addressing protests and appeals on the eligibility or
18 disqualification of athletes, coaches and chaperones: *Provided, That,* all protests and
19 appeals must be resolved with finality within thirty (30) days upon the receipt of the
20 protest or appeal by the Board.

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ARTICLE VI
SPORTS EVENTS AND STANDARDS

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SEC. 16. *Sports Events* - The official sports events in the Palarong Pambansa shall
26 include, but not be limited to the following:

1 (a) Elementary Division

- 2 (1) Athletics
- 3 (2) Badminton
- 4 (3) Baseball
- 5 (4) Basketball
- 6 (5) Chess
- 7 (6) Football
- 8 (7) Gymnastics
- 9 (8) Sepak Takraw
- 10 (9) Softball
- 11 (10) Swimming
- 12 (11) Table Tennis
- 13 (12) Taekwondo
- 14 (13) Tennis
- 15 (14) Volleyball
- 16 (15) Arnis

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18 (b) Secondary Division

- 19 (1) Archery
- 20 (2) Arnis
- 21 (3) Athletics

- 1 (4) Badminton
- 2 (5) Baseball
- 3 (6) Basketball
- 4 (7) Boxing
- 5 (8) Chess
- 6 (9) Football
- 7 (10) Gymnastics
- 8 (11) Sepak Takraw
- 9 (12) Softball
- 10 (13) Swimming
- 11 (14) Table Tennis
- 12 (15) Taekwondo
- 13 (16) Tennis
- 14 (17) Volleyball

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16 *Provided, That,* appropriate sports events shall be organized for students with
17 disability.

18 SEC. 17. *Regulations and Standards* - The Board shall conduct a review of the
19 current rules and regulations and an inventory of existing sports facilities, venues and
20 equipments being used in the Palarong Pambansa. All sports events must be played
21 according to international rules and regulations and the sports venues, facilities and
22 equipment to be used shall be in accordance with international standards. The Board

1 shall consult the National Sports Associations (NSAs) in the review of the rules and
2 regulations of each sports event.

3 ARTICLE VII

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5 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PSC, POC and DILG
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7 Sec. 18. *Philippine Sports Commission* - The PSC shall have the following duties
8 and responsibilities:

- 9 1. The PSC shall make available its manpower and technical resources,
10 and facilities for the Palarong Pambansa and other school sports and
11 physical education programs of the DepED; and
- 12 2. The PSC, in coordination with DepED, shall formulate and implement a
13 training program for outstanding athletes of the Palarong Pambansa to
14 ensure the continuity of their athletic development and education.

15 Sec. 19. *Philippine Olympic Committee* - The POC shall have the following duties
16 and responsibilities:

- 17 1. To provide technical support to all programs that DepEd may implement
18 to train its teachers, coaches and officiating team;
- 19 2. To provide technical support in the formulation of the specification of
20 equipment to be procured for the Palarong Pambansa; and
- 21 3. To provide technical support to all programs that DepEd may implement
22 to train DepEd and non-DepEd personnel who will manage the events to
23 be played in the Palarong Pambansa. The POC may also endorse qualified
24 non-DepEd personnel to serve as event managers.

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1 Sec. 20. *Department of the Interior and Local Government* - The DILG shall have the
2 following duties and responsibilities:

- 3 1. To direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a
4 comprehensive security plan for the LGU where the Palarong Pambansa
5 will be held;
- 6 2. To appoint a representative to the Host LGU Palarong Pambansa Board;
- 7 3. To direct all LGUs where the events will be played to coordinate, cooperate
8 and support the plans of the Host LGU Palarong Pambansa Board and the
9 National Palarong Pambansa Board.

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ARTICLE VIII
FINAL PROVISIONS

14 Sec. 21. *Appropriations* - The amount currently appropriated in the General
15 Appropriations Act (GAA) for the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa including pre-
16 national Palaro under the DepEd shall be allocated and utilized for the initial
17 implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its
18 continued implementation shall be included under the budget of the DepEd in the
19 annual General Appropriations Act.

20 Sec. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - Within ninety (90) days after the
21 approval of this Act, the DepEd, together with the concerned agencies, shall prepare and
22 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of
23 this Act. The IRRs shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the publication in a major
24 daily newspaper of general circulation.

25 Sec. 23. *Separability Clause* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
26 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in
27 full force and effect.

1 Sec. 24. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, particularly
2 Executive Order 433, presidential issuances and other administrative rules and
3 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
4 amended or modified accordingly.

5 Sec. 25. *Effectivity* – The implementation of this Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
6 days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

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8 *Approved,*