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SENATE

S. No. 896

RECEIVED BY: *Jan*

Introduced by Sen. Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to extend benefits and other privileges to our professional athletes who have brought honor and glory to the country by becoming world champions and/or winning international sports competitions.

Our professional athletes risk lives and limbs in order to give honor and glory to the motherland. They often forego employment opportunities to practice and perfect their craft in the hope that they can one day win that coveted championship or international sports competition and make us proud to be Filipinos. When they win, they receive our praise, exultation and collective adulation at least while they remain champions and winners. When their reign is over, they often find themselves alone, abandoned and without any viable means to support themselves and their families.

The cases of former Filipino world boxing champions Rolando Navarette and Luisito Espinosa are cases in point. Navarette has been reduced to the life of a pauper; dependent on charitable gestures from his countrymen for his sustenance and for his medical expenses. Luisito Espinosa has been forced to continue fighting and to struggle financially so he could survive in a far away land (the United States).

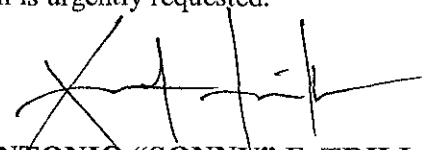
It is a sad reality but we often see Filipino world champions and sporting heroes suffer and even die penniless after their heydays. Clearly, something has to be done to help those who have brought us honor and glory to at least have a decent life after their glory days. Champions are champions. They deserve something better than a mere pat in the back or the short-lived adulation of his countrymen.

The prestige that boxing great Manny Pacquiao, our 8-Division World Champion has brought to the country in the international arena cannot be overemphasized. Undoubtedly, he has restored the Philippines in the world boxing map, earning the adulation and respect not only of his countrymen but of boxing aficionados and even ordinary folks the world over. We not only excel in boxing but in other sports as well. Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros-Posadas, the bowling hall-of-famer Paeng Nepomuceno – all of them are world or Asian champions. The list is endless but our memories are rather short.

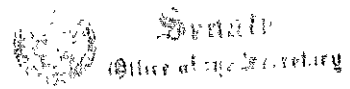
This bill, therefore, seeks to grant financial benefits to our prized athletes in the form of retirement pensions, health care and death benefit. Admittedly, even the benefits proposed in this Bill are at best modest and inadequate compared to the sacrifices and hardships our athletes had to endure for our country but at least the same will signify and symbolize our collective expression of gratitude for the honor and glory they have brought our country. The same represent a starting point in the continuing effort to look after the welfare and interest of our professional athletes.

A version of this bill was passed by both Houses during the 15th Congress. Unfortunately, the same was vetoed by the President. It is my hope that this Congress, a compromise could be arrived at and this bill could be finally enacted into law for the benefit of our poor countrymen.

In view of the foregoing circumstances, approval of this bill is urgently requested.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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



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SENATE

S. NO. 896

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO
PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER
EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "*Professional Filipino*
2 *Athletes Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2013.*"

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall provide retirement, health care, and
5 death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles in
6 international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world championship
7 games, in both individual or team events, in recognition of the glory and honor they have
8 bestowed to the country.

9
10 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
11 defined as follows:

12 a. *Board* – shall refer to the Games and Amusement Board (GAB);

- 1 b. *Filipino Athlete* – shall refer to professional athletes who are citizens of the Philippines,
2 except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of R.A. No. 9225 otherwise known as
3 the “Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003”;
- 4 c. *International Professional Sports Competitions* – shall refer to international bodies that
5 are recognized, accredited and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or
6 memorandum of understanding with the Board;
- 7 d. *International Sporting Organizations* – shall refer to international bodies that are
8 recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or
9 memorandum of understanding with the Board;
- 10 e. *Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games* – shall refer to other
11 international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or stature as
12 world championship titles and are recognized as such by the Board;
- 13 f. *Primary Beneficiaries* – for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the legitimate spouse and
14 legitimate or illegitimate children;
- 15 g. *Professional Athlete* – shall refer to any natural person who is paid a sum of money or
16 other equivalent compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a game,
17 bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either as an individual contestant or a
18 member of a team, under a contract entered into with a professional sports
19 promoter/operator or team owner and licensed by the Board;
- 20 h. *Professional Sports* – shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest, bouts,
21 tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money or
22 other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which are
23 accredited and/or recognized by the Board.
- 24 i. *Secondary beneficiaries* – for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the parents, and in their
25 absence, to the brothers or sister of professional athletes.

1 extended by the PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to compliance with PCSO's
2 existing rules and guidelines; *Provided, further,* That any qualified beneficiary shall have the
3 option to waive the benefits mentioned under this Section.
4

5 **SEC. 6. *Death Benefits.*** – Upon the death of a Professional Filipino Athlete, the primary
6 beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php
7 50,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses; *Provided,* That, if there are no primary
8 beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.
9

10 **SEC. 7. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits.*** – The Board is hereby authorized to adjust
11 the retirement benefits provided in Section 4 hereof, based on studies, consultations and public
12 hearings with relevant agencies and entities. However, no memorandum, order or issuance shall
13 diminish the prescribed retirement benefits provided herein.
14

15 CHAPTER III

16 TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

17
18 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** – The Chairman of the Board shall immediately include in the
19 Board's program the implementation of the benefits under this Act, the funding of which shall be
20 included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.
21

22 **SEC. 10. *Professional Filipino Athletes Welfare Development Trust Fund.*** –There shall
23 be an independent and separate trust fund established under this Act, to be administered by the
24 Board. An amount not less than eighty percent (80%) for the first five (5) years, accrued from the
25 licensing, registration and accreditation fees, fines and charges shall be used for the purpose of
26 the professional Filipino athlete's welfare development trust fund. The fund shall be used for je
27 continued upgrading of training facilities to conform with international standards, accreditation
28 of and other forms of assistance and support to the professional athlete's sector. The trust fund

1 may also accept grants and donations from national and foreign entities and individuals
2 interested in the professional athletes' development.

3
4 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Board within ninety (90) days
5 after the effectivity of this Act, through a technical working committee, and in consultation with
6 the sectors concerned, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations for the
7 full implementation of this Act. *Provided*, however, that copies of the formulated rules and
8 regulations shall be submitted to the Committee on Games and Amusement of both Houses of
9 Congress. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon publication in a newspaper of general
10 circulation.

11
12 **SEC. 12. *Reportorial Requirements*** – The Board shall submit an annual report of the
13 implementation of this Act to the relevant committees of both Houses of Congress.

14
15 **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision or part of this Act shall be held
16 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the law or other provisions, which are not affected
17 thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

18
19 **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
20 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
21 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,