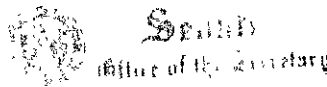


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



13 OCT 14 AM 11:51

SENATE

S. No. 1836

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Over the past decades, the Philippines has produced world-class boxing champions, such as Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, Manny Pacquiao, Nonito Donaire, Jr., Donnie Nietes, and Brian Viloria. The international acclaim garnered by these boxers show that, given the proper support, our boxing athletes possess superior physical strength, skill, and talent.

Boxing is a sport fraught with risk to the lives and limbs of its athletes. Some boxers have met their untimely death both inside the ring or due to injuries sustained therein. These untimely deaths are due to the lack, and sometimes absence, of sufficient medical services to treat the injuries of boxers. It should also be noted that boxers are prone to sustaining injuries that require long-term medical treatment. Despite this fact, boxers face retirement without financial assistance for their medical care.

At present, boxing is regulated by the Games and Amusement Board. The broad and overarching mandate of the GAB, however, results in an inability to sufficiently address the specific concerns of the boxing community. During the previous Congress, support for the creation of a separate administrative agency for the purpose of focusing on the needs of and benefits for boxers was supported by stakeholders. Unfortunately, there was not enough time during the previous Congress to achieve the enactment into law of the bill entitled the Philippine Boxers' Welfare Act of 2012.

Recognizing the continuing need to provide support for Philippine boxers, the present measure reiterates proposals for the creation of a Board that will focus on the needs of boxing athletes and for the provision of mandatory benefits for boxers.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID  
Senator *LM*

13 OCT 14 11:51

SENATE  
S. No. 1836

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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AN ACT  
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION,  
STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S COMPETITIVENESS IN BOXING AND  
ENSURING THE WELFARE OF FILIPINO BOXERS THEREBY,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine*  
2 *Boxer's Welfare Act of 2013*"

3  
4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote  
5 sports excellence and develop Filipino athletes into international caliber competitors  
6 and to make available to them safety nets for the protection of their economic welfare  
7 and well-being. As such, the State shall promote excellence in boxing sports by  
8 establishing a national agency to create a policy to set proper directions for the  
9 development and safety of professional boxers and providing for the welfare of boxers,  
10 coaches, trainers, and support of other stakeholders upholding the country's honor in  
11 tournaments and competitions.

12  
13 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms  
14 shall be defined as follows:

- 15 a. "Commission" shall refer to the Philippine Boxing Commission;  
16 b. "Boxer registry" shall refer to any entity certified by the Philippine Boxing  
17 Commission for the purposes of maintaining records and identification of  
18 boxers;

- 1 c. "License" shall refer to a document issued by the Commission authorizing a  
2 person or entity to perform duties as a privilege connected with professional  
3 boxing;
- 4 d. "Licensee" shall refer to an individual who serves as a trainer, second, or  
5 cutman for a boxer;
- 6 e. "Manager" shall refer to a person who receives compensation for service as  
7 an agent or representative of a boxer;
- 8 f. "Matches" shall refer to the pairing of boxers in a contest or in a bout;
- 9 g. "Matchmaker" shall refer to a person that proposes, selects, and arranges the  
10 boxers to participate in a professional boxing promotion;
- 11 h. "Permit" shall refer to a document issued by the Commission authorizing a  
12 person or entity to hold, promote, or engage in the conduct or operation of  
13 professional boxing;
- 14 i. "Professional Boxer" shall refer to any individual athlete who is paid a sum of  
15 money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in  
16 a bout or in a professional boxing contest;
- 17 j. "Professional Boxing Promotion" shall refer to a boxing contest held in the  
18 Philippines between individuals for financial compensation but shall not refer  
19 to a boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur sports organization;
- 20 k. "Promoter" shall refer to a person or persons primarily responsible for  
21 organizing, promoting, and producing a professional boxing promotion. The  
22 term "promoter" does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial  
23 establishment hosting or sponsoring a professional boxing promotion unless:  
24 (i) the hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment is primarily  
25 responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing the promotion; and  
26 (ii) there is no other person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting,  
27 and producing the promotion;
- 28 l. "Sanctioning Organization" shall refer to an organization that sanctions  
29 professional boxing promotions in the Philippines (i) between boxers who are  
30 residents of different countries; or (ii) that are advertised, otherwise  
31 promoted, or broadcast (including closed circuit television) in a country other  
32 than the Philippines
- 33  
34  
35

## 1 II. THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION

2 **SEC. 4.** *Creation of the Philippine Boxing Commission.* - There is hereby  
3 created the Philippine Boxing Commission, hereafter to be referred to as the  
4 Commission, which shall be directly under the administrative supervision of the Office  
5 of the President.

6  
7 **SEC. 5.** *Objectives of the Commission.* - The objectives of the Commission  
8 are as follows:

- 9 a. To establish uniform rules and procedures related to boxing;
- 10 b. To set proper directions for the sports of boxing towards developing  
11 world-class professional boxers to bring honor to the country;
- 12 c. To provide safety procedures to protect boxers from physical and financial  
13 exploitation;
- 14 d. To provide for a comprehensive health care benefits, alternative livelihood  
15 program, a system of life insurance, reliable death benefits, and other  
16 benefits for all boxers who competed and won in international boxing  
17 events sanctioned by the Commission.

18  
19 **SEC. 6.** *Powers of the Commission.* - The Commission shall have the  
20 following powers:

- 21 a. To appoint the officers and other personnel of the Commission and fix  
22 their compensation, allowance and other emoluments, subject to civil  
23 service applicable law, rules, and regulations;
- 24 b. To suspend, dismiss, or otherwise discipline for cause any employee, or  
25 approve or disapprove the appointment, transfer, or detail of employees,  
26 subject to the provisions of existing laws and regulations;
- 27 c. To enter into contracts in furtherance of the purposes of this Act;
- 28 d. To acquire, use, and control any land, building, facilities, equipment,  
29 instrument, tools, and rights required or otherwise necessary for the  
30 accomplishment of the objectives of the Commission;
- 31 e. To acquire, own, possess, and dispose of any real or personal property  
32 with the unanimous decision of the members of the Commission;
- 33 f. To accept donations, gifts, bequests, and grants;
- 34 g. To issue rules and regulations in pursuance of the provisions of this Act;
- 35 and

- 1 h. To perform any and all other acts incidental to or required by virtue of its  
2 creation.

3  
4 **SEC. 7. *Functions of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall have the  
5 following functions:

- 6 a. To formulate, initiate, plan, and implement a national policy for the  
7 development of the sport of boxing in the country;
- 8 b. To maintain an integrated boxer registry for the purposes of maintaining  
9 records and identification of boxers;
- 10 c. To establish a consultative mechanism which shall provide a forum for  
11 continuing dialogue between all stakeholders in the implementation of all  
12 laws, policies, programs, and projects relative to boxing;
- 13 d. To seek or request the assistance and support of any government agency,  
14 office or instrumentality including government-owned and -controlled  
15 corporations, local government units, as well as non-governmental  
16 organizations or institutions in pursuance of its policies;
- 17 e. To establish and maintain linkages with international boxing  
18 organizations or institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign  
19 governments in order to facilitate and ensure the participation of Filipino  
20 professional boxers in international boxing events;
- 21 f. To formulate, initiate, plan, and implement a comprehensive and  
22 progressive health care program, alternative livelihood program, a system  
23 of life insurance, reliable death benefits, and other benefits for all boxers  
24 who competed and won in international boxing events sanctioned by the  
25 Commission;
- 26 g. To formulate and implement an insurance system through the Social  
27 Security System (“SSS”) or private insurance companies for qualified  
28 professional boxers;
- 29 h. To provide, supervise, and ensure that emergency medical personnel and  
30 services are available in every boxing competition, whether local or  
31 abroad;
- 32 i. To establish a system of registration and licensing of boxers, referees,  
33 trainers, seconds, cutmen, and other personnel necessary or involved in a  
34 boxing competition; and
- 35 j. To issue, suspend, or revoke permits, and licenses;

- 1 k. To impose or collect fees for the issuance of licenses and permits to  
2 persons required to obtain the same;
- 3 l. To allocate resources for the implementation of national policies related to  
4 boxers;
- 5 m. To submit an annual report on the implementation of this Act to the  
6 President and to the Congress; and
- 7 n. To perform such other functions as may be necessary to effectively and  
8 efficiently carry out the provisions of this Act.
- 9

10 **SEC. 8. *Membership of the Commission.*** - The Commission shall be  
11 composed of one (1) Chairman and six (6) members, all of whom shall be appointed by  
12 the President.

13

14 The Chairman shall be chosen on the basis of the following standards:

- 15 a. Must have extensive experience in professional boxing activities or in a  
16 field directly related to professional sports;
- 17 b. Must possess outstanding moral character or must be of recognized  
18 integrity; and
- 19 c. Must possess training, experience, and qualifications relevant to the sport  
20 of boxing.
- 21

22 The members shall be chosen from the following sectors:

- 23 a. One (1) representative from the Boxing Promoters' Association;
- 24 b. One (1) representative from the Boxing Managers' Association;
- 25 c. One (1) representative from the Boxing Trainers' Association;
- 26 d. One (1) representative from retired professional boxers;
- 27 e. One (1) representative who is a lawyer and who shall serve as general  
28 counsel: *Provided*, that he should possess extensive experience in litigation  
29 or exposure to policies directly or indirectly related to professional sports;  
30 and
- 31 f. One (1) representative who is a medical doctor and who shall be the head  
32 of the Medical Advisory Board of the Commission: *Provided*, that he  
33 should possess extensive experience in sports medicine.
- 34

1           **SEC. 9.**       *Term of Office.* - The term of office of the commissioners shall be  
2 four (4) years: *Provided,* that any member who shall be appointed to fill a vacated  
3 position shall only serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the member replaced:  
4 *Provided further,* that any member of the Commission whose term of office has expired  
5 shall remain in office until his successor shall have been duly appointed and qualified.  
6 The Chairman and members of the Commission may be suspended or removed by the  
7 President of the Philippines.

8  
9           **SEC. 10.**     *The Secretariat.* - The Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive  
10 Director who shall be chosen by the Commission, and such other technical and  
11 administrative staff as may be needed and as determined by the Commission who shall  
12 be tasked to implement the policies and programs approved by the Commission and to  
13 supervise all aspects of the sport of professional boxing. Their salaries, allowances, and  
14 other emoluments shall be determined by the Commission in accordance with Civil  
15 Service rules and other relevant and existing laws.

16  
17           **SEC. 11.**     *Meetings and Quorum.* - The Commission shall meet regularly  
18 once a week or more often, as the need may arise, upon the call of the Chairman or  
19 upon the request of three (3) members of the Commission. The presence of a majority  
20 of all the members shall be sufficient for the conduct of business.

21  
22           **SEC. 12.**     *Allowances and Per Diem.* - The Chairman of the Commission  
23 shall receive a monthly allowance of Eight thousand Pesos and a *per diem* not to exceed  
24 Five hundred Pesos for each meeting actually attended by him: *Provided,* That such  
25 allowance and per diems shall not exceed Twelve thousand Pesos during any one  
26 month.

27           The other members of the Commission shall receive a monthly commutable  
28 allowance of Six thousand Pesos and a *per diem* not to exceed Five hundred Pesos for  
29 each meeting actually attended by them: *Provided,* That such allowance and *per diems*  
30 shall not exceed Ten thousand Pesos during any one month for each member.

### 31 32                                   **III. SAFETY STANDARDS**

33  
34           **SEC. 13.**     *The Medical Advisory Board.* - The Medical Advisory Board assists  
35 and advises the Commission on issues affecting the safety and health of the boxers. The

1 Board's duties include preparing and submitting to the Commission appropriate  
2 standards for the physical and mental examination of the boxers, advising the  
3 Commission as to the physical and mental fitness of a boxer and recommending  
4 physicians to be licensed as ringside physicians for the Commission.

5 The Board shall prepare and submit recommendations for revisions in the law  
6 necessary to protect the health of the boxers.

7  
8 **SEC. 14. *Physical and Medical Examination Requirements.*** - No person  
9 may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing promotion  
10 without a physical and diagnostic examination of each boxer by an accredited and  
11 licensed physician of the Philippine Boxing Commission, pursuant to existing rules and  
12 regulations, certifying whether or not the boxer is physically fit to safely compete,  
13 which shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 14 a. Chest X-ray (PA View);
- 15 b. Ophthalmological examination;
- 16 c. Neuro-psychological test;
- 17 d. Drug testing for THC (Marijuana) and Metamphetamine (Shabu);
- 18 e. Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HepBsAg) - quantitative exams for all new  
19 licensees as well as boxers returning to the professional sport who previously  
20 exhibited positive results and qualitative exams for renewals;
- 21 f. CT Scan of the Brain;
- 22 g. Gynecological condition result for female boxers;
- 23 h. Urinalysis;
- 24 i. Complete Blood Count (CBC);
- 25 j. 12 leads ECG;
- 26 k. HIV test (for licensed professional boxers fighting abroad); and
- 27 l. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), as may be needed, upon  
28 recommendation of the Commission physician.

29  
30 All other personnel and staff engaged in and involved in the boxing promotion  
31 shall be subjected to such physical and medical examinations as may be determined by  
32 the Commission. Items (a) to (i) shall be mandatory physical and medical examination  
33 requirements. Items (j), (k), and (l) shall be required in cases determined by the  
34 Commission. Expenses for the physical and medical examination, as required, shall be  
35 for the account of the Manager.



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**SEC. 15.     *Emergency Medical Services.*** - A professional boxing promotion may be held only if:

- a. A licensed practicing physician, duly registered with the Commission, whose services are paid by the promoter is continuously present at the ringside of the professional boxing promotion;
- b. Ambulance services, including oxygen tanks and other medical personnel equipped with appropriate resuscitation equipment continuously present on the ringside;
- c. A tertiary hospital is near the vicinity of the event: *Provided*, That a Memorandum of Agreement shall be executed between the promoter of the boxing promotion and said hospital to ensure that injured boxers shall be attended to in their facility with dispatch.

Absence of the afore-mentioned requirements shall be cause for the cancellation of the permit to hold the scheduled boxing promotion.

**SEC. 16.     *Mandatory Rest Period.*** - There shall be an interval between boxing contests which shall be referred to as the mandatory rest period. The mandatory rest period shall vary depending on the extent of damage brought about by a knockout (KO) or technical knockout (TKO), as determined by the Commission's Physician, based on the last boxing promotion's ringside physician report, which shall not be less than ninety (90) days. In cases of KOs and TKOs, there shall be physical and mental examinations to continue until one month after the event, the report of which shall be the basis for determination of whether or not the affected boxer may still compete after the ninety (90) day mandatory rest period. In case a boxer has received a serious concussion, he shall not be able to compete again until he has been examined and has been certified to by the Commission's physician as fit to compete again.

**IV. BOXER INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS**

**SEC. 17.     *Insurance.*** - The Commission, in carrying out the regulation of professional boxing promotions, shall require that promoter provide insurance coverage, in a minimum amount of at least One hundred thousand Pesos

1 (Php100,000.00) for every professional boxing promotion, through a private insurance  
2 company, to cover an injury sustained while engaged in that boxing promotion.

3  
4 **SEC. 18. *Health Care Benefits.*** - All professional boxers shall be enrolled in  
5 the National Health Insurance Program (Philhealth) to enable them to receive and avail  
6 of an adequate package of personal health services including, but not limited to, in-  
7 patient hospital care, out-patient care, emergency and transfer services, and other  
8 supplementary health benefits, as may be provided in the Philhealth. The cost of  
9 premium contribution and the standard monthly contributions shall be shouldered by  
10 the Commission.

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

16  
17 **SEC. 19. *Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/or Injured***  
18 ***International Boxing Champions.*** - The Commission, in coordination with various  
19 stakeholders in the boxing industry, shall establish an alternative livelihood training  
20 program and referral system for retired and/or injured international boxing champions.

21  
22 **SEC. 20. *Death Benefits.*** - Upon the death of a professional boxer, the  
23 primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Fifty thousand  
24 Pesos (Php50,000.00) to cover funeral services and expenses: *Provided*, That if the  
25 primary beneficiaries are absent or otherwise incapable of claiming the benefits granted  
26 them under this Section, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to the same.

27  
28 **SEC. 21. *Retirement Benefits.*** - Professional Filipino boxers who won any  
29 world title or championship in any international boxing competition duly sanctioned by  
30 the recognized international sporting organization and bodies shall receive a lifetime  
31 retirement pension of Fifteen thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00) monthly upon reaching the  
32 age of fifty (50). Retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and distinct from  
33 the mandatory requirement benefits provided by existing laws.

34 The Commission is authorized to adjust the benefits provided in this section  
35 based on studies, consultations, and public hearings with relevant agencies and entities.

1 However, no memorandum, order, or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement  
2 incentive benefits.

3

4 **SEC. 22. *Pension Benefits.*** - In the event of the death of the international  
5 boxing champion, his legally surviving spouse shall receive the monthly pension due  
6 him, as provided under Section 19 of this Act.

7

8 **SEC. 23. *Educational Benefits to Children of International Boxing***  
9 ***Champions.*** - Not more than two (2) children of each international boxing champion  
10 shall be awarded a full scholarship grant upon admission into any government-owned  
11 school, college, university, or institution. The grant shall cover all school fees, including  
12 tuition, library, laboratory, medical, physical education, diploma, and graduation fees.

13 If said champion should have more than two qualified children, the choice of  
14 who among such children shall avail of the scholarship grant herein shall be made by  
15 the boxer in consultation with his spouse. Should the boxer be deceased at the time of  
16 eligibility of his children, the surviving spouse shall choose. If both the boxer and his  
17 spouse are deceased at such time, the two eldest children who have not acquired a  
18 college degree shall be awarded the scholarship grant provided under this Section.

19

## 20 **V. TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

21

22 **SEC. 24. *Appropriations.*** - The amount of One hundred million Pesos  
23 (Php100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act,  
24 which shall be taken from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes office (PCSO) and the  
25 Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) in equal shares.  
26 Thereafter, such amount needed to implement this Act shall be included in the Annual  
27 Appropriations of the Commission subject to the retention of the amount mandated  
28 under Section 25 of this Act. The Commission is hereby authorized to re-align its  
29 appropriations in the current year of the date of effectivity of this Act to conform with  
30 the requirements of this Act.

31

32 **SEC. 25. *Boxer's Welfare Development Trust Fund.*** - There shall be an  
33 independent and separate trust fund established under this Act, to be administered by  
34 the Commission. An amount not less than eighty percent (80%) for the first five (5)  
35 years, accrued from the licensing, registration and accreditation fees, and fines and

1 charges shall be used for the purpose of the boxer's welfare development trust fund.  
2 The fund shall be used for the continued upgrading of training facilities to conform  
3 with international standards, accreditation of other forms of assistance and support to  
4 the professional boxing sector. The trust fund may also accept grants and donations  
5 from national and foreign entities and individuals interested in the professional boxing  
6 development.

7

8 **SEC. 26. *Transitory Provision.*** - Pending the organization of the  
9 Commission, the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) shall continue to exercise the  
10 duties and functions in relation to boxing sports.

11 Such amount under the Boxers' Welfare Fund, under the GAB, shall then be  
12 transferred to the Boxer's Welfare and Development Trust Fund of the Commission and  
13 will form part of the initial appropriations of the Commission.

14

15 **SEC. 27. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** - Within Ninety (90)  
16 days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Chairman, through a technical working  
17 committee, and in consultation with the private sector concerned, shall promulgate the  
18 implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary to effectively implement of the  
19 provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That copies of the formulated rules and regulations  
20 shall be submitted to the Committee on Games and Amusement of both Houses of  
21 Congress: *Provided*, Finally that such rules and regulations shall take effect only upon  
22 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

23

24 **SEC. 28. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
25 executive orders, rules or regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions  
26 of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

27

28 **SEC. 29. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act shall be  
29 held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected  
30 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

31

32 **SEC. 30. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
33 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*