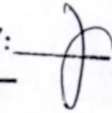




'16 SEP 15 P6:08

SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1147

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION THEREBY
STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S STANDING IN BOXING
SPORTS, ENSURING THE WELFARE OF FILIPINO BOXERS,
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is renowned as a breeding ground for boxing talent. Boxing is considered as one of the famous sport in our country today. Over the past decades Filipinos excelled and arise as world-class boxers, produced Olympic standouts, professional world champions and some of the greatest fighters in the history of the sport.

The country is one, if not the most prolific producer of world-class fighters in Asia. Today, Filipino professional boxers are one of the most respected for their aggressive styles and world-class talents. They brought glory and honor to our country.

While giving honor and glory to our country, international Filipino boxers risk their lives and limbs in this sport. Some even met their untimely death in the bout due to the lack, if not absence, of safety and emergency medical services, while some face retirement without any kind of financial assistance or access to medical case. Most often, we hear many of our boxing legends do not have pension benefits.

The boxing sport, now under the supervision of the Games and Amusement Board, is not given the proper and appropriate attention it deserves. Considering the growing popularity of this sport and the number of champions it has produced for the country, it is about time that we give due attention and consideration to this sport and to all our

professional boxing champions. Hence, this proposed bill seeks to establish the Philippine Boxing Commission to be the single agency that will focus and steer the skills and talents of the youth towards its proper direction, to provide and implement the necessary welfare incentives and benefits long overdue to all professional boxers who have brought honor and prestige to our country. The Philippines was, is and always will be a serious boxing country that produces exciting, world-class fighters.

Hence, the passage of the bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JOE EJERCITO', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



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

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the
2 "Philippine Boxer's Welfare act of 2016".
3

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of
5 the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts,
6 culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate
7 social progress, and promote human liberation and development. The
8 State shall promote excellence in boxing sports by establishing a
9 national agency to create a policy to set proper directions for the
10 development and safety of professional boxers and providing for the
11 welfare of boxer, coaches, trainers, and support to other stakeholders
12 competing for the country.
13

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

- 16 a) Commission - shall refer to the Philippine Boxing
17 Commission;
18 b) Boxer registry - shall refer to any entity certified by the
19 Philippine Boxing Commission for the purpose of

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

40

1 II. THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION
2
3

4 **SECTION 4. *Creation of the Philippine Boxing Commission.*** -
5 There is hereby created the Philippine Boxing Commission, hereinafter
6 referred to as the Commission, which shall be directly under the
7 administrative supervision of the Office of the President.
8
9

10 **SECTION 5. *Objectives of the Commission.*** - The objectives of
11 the Commission are as follows:

- 12 a) To establish uniform rules and procedures related to boxing;
13 b) To set proper directions for the sports of boxing towards
14 developing world-class professional boxers to bring honor to
15 the country;
16 c) To provide safety procedures to protect boxers from physical
17 and financial exploitation;
18 d) To provide for a comprehensive health care benefits,
19 alternative livelihood program, a system of life insurance,
20 reliable death benefits, and other benefits for all boxers who
21 competed and won in international boxing events sanctioned
22 by the Commission.
23
24
25

26 **SECTION 6. *Powers of the Commission.*** - The Commission
27 shall have the following powers:

- 28 a) To appoint the officers and other personnel of the
29 Commission and fix their compensation, allowances and
30 other emoluments, subject to civil service applicable laws,
31 rules and regulations;
32 b) To suspend, dismiss or otherwise discipline for cause, any
33 employee, and/or approve or disapprove the appointment,
34 transfer or detail of employees, subject to the provisions of
35 existing laws and regulations;
36 c) To enter into contracts in furtherance of the purposes of this
37 Act;
38 d) To acquire, use and control any land, building, facilities,
39 equipment, instrument, tools, and rights required or
40 otherwise necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives
41 of the Commission;
42 e) To issue rules and regulations in pursuance of the provisions

1 of this Act; and

2 f) To perform any and all other acts incidental to or required
3 by virtue of its creation.

4 **SECTION 7. *Functions of the Commission.*** - The Commission
5 shall have the following functions:

- 6 a) To formulate, initiate, plan and implement a national policy
7 for the development of the sport of boxing in the country;
- 8 b) To maintain an integrated boxer registry for the purposes of
9 maintaining records and identification of boxers;
- 10 c) To establish a consultative mechanism which shall provide a
11 forum for continuing dialogues between all stakeholders in
12 the implementation of all laws, policies, programs and
13 projects relative to boxing;
- 14 d) To seek or request the assistance and support of any
15 government agency, office or instrumentality including
16 government-owned and controlled corporations, local
17 government units as well as non-governmental
18 organizations or institutions in pursuance of its policies;
- 19 e) To establish and maintain linkages with international boxing
20 organizations or institutions and counterpart agencies of
21 foreign governments in order to facilitate and ensure the
22 participation of Filipino professional boxers in international
23 boxing events;
- 24
25 f) To formulate, initiate, plan and implement a comprehensive
26 and progressive health care program, alternative livelihood
27 program, a system of life insurance, reliable death benefits
28 and other benefits for all boxer who competed and won in
29 international boxing events sanctioned by the Commission;
- 30
31 g) To formulate and implement an insurance system through
32 the Social Security System (SSS) and/or private insurance
33 companies for qualified professional boxers;
- 34
35 h) To provide, supervise and ensure that emergency medical
36 personnel and services are available in every boxing
37 competition, local and abroad;
- 38
39 i) To establish a system of registration and licensing of boxers,
40 referees, trainer, seconds, cutman and other personnel
necessary for the boxing sport;
- 41 j) To allocate resources for the implementation of national

- 1 policies related to boxers;
- 2 k) To submit an annual report on the implementation of this
3 Act to the President and to the Congress; and
- 4 l) To perform such other functions as may be necessary to
5 effectively and efficiently carry out the provisions of this act.
6 The functions of the Games and Amusement Board (GAB) as
7 well as other entities related to boxing are hereby transferred
8 to the Commission.

9

10 **SECTION 8. *Membership of the Commission.*** - The Commission
11 shall be composed of a Chairman who - (a) has extensive experience in
12 professional boxing activities or in a field directly related to
13 professional sports; (b) is of outstanding character and recognized
14 integrity; and (c) is selected on the basis of training, experience and
15 qualifications and without regard to party affiliation and six (6)
16 Members to be appointed by the President: Provided that of the six (6)
17 Members, there shall be one (1) representative from the Boxing
18 Promoters' Association, one (1) representative from Boxing Managers'
19 Association, one (1) representative from Boxing Trainers' Association,
20 one (1) representative from retired professional boxers, one (1) General
21 Counsel, who has extensive experience in litigation or policies directly
22 or indirectly related to professional sports and one (1) Physician, who
23 has extensive experience in sports medicine. The Member-Physician
24 shall be the head of the Medical Advisory Board of the Commission.

25
26

27 **SECTION 9. *Term of Office.*** - The term of office of the
28 commissioners shall be four (4) years: Provided, that no vacancy shall
29 be filled except for the unexpired portion of any term; and provided,
30 further, that any member of the Commission whose term of office has
31 expired shall remain in office until his successor shall have been duly
32 appointed and qualified. The Chairman and members of the
33 Commission may be suspended or removed by the President of the
34 Philippines.

35
36

37 **SECTION 10. *The Secretariat.*** - The Secretariat shall be headed
38 by an Executive Director, appointed by the Commission, and such
39 other technical and administrative staff as may be needed and as
40 determined by the Commission, who shall be tasked to implement the
41 policies and programs approved by the commission and to supervise
42 all aspects of professional boxing. Their salaries, allowances and other
43 emoluments shall be determined by the Commission in accordance

1 with Civil Service rules and other relevant and existing laws.
2
3
4

5 **SECTION 11. *Meetings and Quorums.*** - The Commission shall
6 meet regularly once a week and as often as the exigencies of the service
7 may demand, upon the call of the Chairman or upon the request of
8 three (3) members of the Commission. The vote of a majority of all the
9 members shall be necessary for the adoption of any rule, resolution or
10 decision of the Commission.
11

12 **SECTION 12. *Allowances and Per Diems.*** - The Chairman of
13 the Commission shall receive a monthly allowance of eight thousand
14 pesos and a per diem not to exceed five hundred pesos for each
15 meeting actually attended by him: Provided, that such allowance and
16 per diems shall not exceed twelve thousand pesos during one month.

17 The other members of the Commission shall receive a monthly
18 commutable allowance of six thousand pesos and a per diem not to
19 exceed five hundred pesos for each meeting actually attended by them:
20 Provided, that such allowance and per diems shall not exceed ten
21 thousand pesos during any one month for each member.

22 III. SAFETY STANDARD

23 **SECTION 13. *The Medical Advisory Board.*** - The Medical
24 Advisory Board assists and advises the member of the Commission on
25 issues affecting the safety and health of boxers. The Board duties
26 include preparing and submitting to the Commission appropriate
27 standards for the physical and mental examination of the boxers,
28 advising the commission as to the physical and mental fitness of a
29 boxer and recommending physicians to be licensed as ringside
30 physicians for the Commission.

31 The Board shall prepare and submit recommendations for
32 revisions in the law necessary to protect the health of the boxers.
33
34

35 **SECTION 14. *Physical and Medical Examination***
36 ***Requirements.*** - No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce,
37 or fight in a professional boxing promotion without a physical and
38 diagnostic examination of each boxer by an accredited and licensed
39 physician of the Philippine Boxing Commission, pursuant to existing
40 rules and regulations, certifying whether or not the boxer is physically
41 fit to safely compete, which shall include but not limited to the
42 following:
43

1 **SECTION 19. *Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/or***
2 ***Injured International Boxing Champions.*** - The Commission, in
3 coordination with various stakeholders in the boxing industry, shall
4 establish an alternative livelihood training program and referral
5 system for retired and/or injured boxing champions.
6

7 **SECTION 20. *Death Benefits.*** - Upon the death of a professional
8 boxer, the primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death
9 benefit of Fifty thousand pesos (PHP 50,000.00) to cover funeral services
10 and expenses: Provided, That if the primary beneficiary are absent or
11 otherwise incapable of claiming the benefits granted them under this
12 Section, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to the same.
13

14 **SECTION 21. *Retirement Benefits.*** - Professional Filipino boxers
15 who won any world title or championship in any international boxing
16 competition duly sanctioned by the recognized international sporting
17 organization and bodies shall receive a lifetime retirement pension of
18 Fifteen thousand Pesos (PHP 15,000.00) monthly upon reaching the age
19 of fifty (50). Retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and
20 distinct from the mandatory requirement benefits provided by existing
21 laws.
22

23 The Commission is authorized to adjust the benefits provided
24 in this section based on studies, consultations, and public hearings
25 with relevant agencies and entities.
26

27 However, no memorandum, order, or issuance shall diminish
28 the prescribed retirement incentive benefits of this Act: *Provided*, That
29 copies of the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to
30 the Committee on Games and Amusement of both Houses of
31 Congress: Provided, Finally that such rules and regulations shall take
32 effect only upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.
33

34 **SECTION 28. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree
35 or issuance, executive orders, rules or regulations, or parts thereof not
36 consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
37 modified accordingly.
38

39 **SECTION 29. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of
40 this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions
41 hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
42 and effect.
43

44 **SECTION 30. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
45 days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2)
46 newspapers of general circulation.
47

48 *Approved,*