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Prepared by the Committee on Sports, the Committee on Health and Demography and the Committee on Finance with Senators Pacquiao, Trillanes IV and Ejercito as authors thereof

AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN THE BOXING INDUSTRY AND PROMOTE THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF FILIPINO BOXERS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION. 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine
2 Boxing Commission Act of 2017”.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the declared policy to strengthen
4 and ensure the continued growth of the boxing industry in the country through
5 a national government agency that will not only pursue the sports’ development
6 program but also utilize the sport as a source of revenue and employment to
7 promote the safety and welfare of Filipino boxers, and provide supplemental
8 assistance to the industry’s registered stakeholders.

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

- 11 a. **Commission** – shall refer to the Philippine Boxing Commission;
- 12 b. **Boxer** – means an individual who fights another in a boxing match;
- 13 c. **License** – shall refer to a document issued by the Commission
14 authorizing a person or entity to be a professional boxer, to perform
15 duties as a coach or trainer of a professional boxer, a promoter for a
16 professional boxing match, or a judge or referee in said match;
- 17 d. **Manager** – means a person who receives compensation for service as
18 an agent or representative of a professional boxer;

- 1 e. **Permit** – shall refer to a document issued by the Commission
2 authorizing a person or entity to hold, promote or engage in the
3 conduct or operation of a professional boxing match;
- 4 f. **Primary beneficiaries** - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the
5 spouse and children;
- 6 g. **Professional boxer** – shall refer to a boxer who is issued a license by
7 the Commission to receive a sum of money or other compensation as
8 a salary or prize money for fighting in a boxing match;
- 9 h. **Professional boxing match**– shall refer to a boxing match held in the
10 Philippines between professional boxers that shall receive money or
11 other compensation for fighting in said match, but shall not refer to a
12 boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur sports organization;
- 13 i. **Promoter** – shall refer to a person, group of persons, or an entity,
14 licensed as such by the Commission and primarily responsible for
15 organizing, promoting, and producing a professional boxing match.
16 The term “promoter” does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other
17 commercial establishment hosting or sponsoring a professional
18 boxing match unless - (i) the hotel, casino, resort, or other
19 commercial establishment is primarily responsible for organizing,
20 promoting and producing the match; and (ii) there is no person or
21 group of persons primarily responsible for organizing, promoting and
22 producing the match;
- 23 j. **Secondary beneficiaries** - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the
24 parents, and in their absence, to the siblings.

25 **SEC. 4. Creation of the Philippine Boxing Commission.** – For the
26 purpose of carrying out the above declared policy, there is hereby created the
27 Philippine Boxing Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission,
28 which shall be directly under the administrative supervision of the Office of the
29 President.

30 **SEC. 5. Objectives.** – The Commission shall have the following
31 objectives:

32 a) To strengthen the boxing industry in the Philippines towards
33 developing world-class professional boxers;

1 b) To utilize the sport for revenue and employment in order to promote
2 the safety and welfare of boxers and provide supplemental assistance to the
3 industry's registered stakeholders;

4 **SEC. 6. Membership.** – The Commission shall be composed of a
5 Chairman and six (6) members that shall be appointed by the President of the
6 Philippines: *Provided*, that the Chairman and two of the members shall be
7 chosen from nominees of the Games and Amusement Board, one Member
8 chosen from the nominee of the Department of Health, and three Members
9 from the private sectors.

10 Nominations by the GAB and the DOH shall be submitted to the Office of
11 the President thirty (30) days prior to expiration of the term of office of
12 incumbents, or within thirty (30) days from the occurrence of any vacancy in
13 the Commission. Said nominees shall have nationally recognized experience
14 and comprehensive knowledge in professional boxing activities and known
15 integrity.

16 **SEC. 7. Term of Office.** – The term of office of the commissioners shall
17 be six (6) years; *Provided*, that no vacancy shall be filled except for the
18 unexpired portion of any term; and *Provided, further*, that the Chairman or any
19 member of the Commission whose term of office has expired shall hold over in
20 office until his successor shall have been appointed and has qualified. The
21 Chairman and members of the Commission may be suspended or removed by
22 the President of the Philippines.

23 **SEC. 8. Meetings and Quorum.** The Commission shall meet regularly
24 once a month and as often as the exigencies of the service may demand, upon
25 the call of the Chairman or upon the request of three (3) members of the
26 Commission. The vote of a majority of the entire Membership shall be
27 necessary for the adoption of any rule, resolution or decision of the
28 Commission.

29 **SEC. 9. Allowances and Per Diems.** – The Chairman and members of
30 the Commission shall each receive a monthly allowance of eight thousand
31 pesos and a per diem not to exceed five hundred pesos for each meeting
32 actually attended by him: *Provided*, that such allowance and per diems shall
33 not exceed twelve thousand pesos during one month.

1 **SEC. 10. Powers and Duties of the Commission.** - The Commission

2 shall have the following powers:

3 a) To formulate, review and update the rules and procedures related to
4 professional boxing in the Philippines in conformity to international standards
5 in order to regulate the boxing industry for the accomplishment of its
6 objectives;

7 b) To establish rules, set requirements, and collect fees for the
8 procurement of a license by, or issuance and renewal of a license to a
9 professional boxer, a coach or trainer of a professional boxer, a promoter for a
10 professional boxing match, or a judge or referee in said match, and the
11 procurement of and issuance of a permit for a professional boxing match; or
12 the suspension or revocation of such license or permit, in order to limit
13 participation in professional boxing matches and other related activities to
14 licensed and appropriately fit individuals;

15 c) To maintain an integrated registry of professional boxers, coaches,
16 trainers, judges, referees, and promoters who will comprise the registered
17 stakeholders of the industry;

18 d) To request the assistance and support of any government agency,
19 office or instrumentality including government-owned and controlled
20 corporations, local government units as well as non-governmental
21 organizations or institutions in the pursuit of its objectives and the execution
22 of its other powers and duties;

23 e) To establish linkages with international boxing organizations or
24 institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign governments in order to
25 facilitate and ensure the participation of Filipino professional boxers in
26 international boxing events;

27 f) To formulate and implement a comprehensive and progressive health
28 care program, alternative livelihood program, a system of life insurance,
29 disability and death benefits and other benefits for all boxers participating in
30 boxing events/matches sanctioned by the Commission;

31 g) To facilitate a pension system through the Social Security System
32 (SSS) and/or private insurance companies for qualified professional boxers;

33 h) To determine and set a safety standard for and to ensure that
34 emergency medical personnel and services are available in every professional
35 boxing match in the Philippines;

36 i) To act as a quasi-judicial board when it shall deem necessary to
37 initiate, undertake, hear and decide any investigation for any violation of its

1 rules & regulations concerning professional boxing and, in connection
2 therewith, shall have the power to issue subpoenae and subpoenae *duces*
3 *tecum*.

4 j) To submit an annual report on the implementation of this Act to the
5 Office of the President and to Congress; and

6 k) To perform such other functions as may be necessary to effectively and
7 efficiently carry out the provisions of this Act.

8 **SEC. 11. Secretariat.** – The Commission shall constitute and establish
9 a Secretariat that shall be headed by an Executive Director, who shall also be
10 appointed by the President of the Philippines, and staffed as may be
11 determined by the Commission. The Secretariat shall be tasked to implement
12 the policies and programs approved by the Commission, and to administer its
13 duties and day to day functions. Their salaries, allowances and other
14 emoluments shall be determined by the Commission in accordance with Civil
15 Service rules and other relevant and existing laws.

16 **SEC. 12. Boxing Officials.** - All the boxing officials involved in any
17 boxing event shall not receive funds or compensation, in any form, directly or
18 indirectly, from the promoter or its agents. Such funds shall be coursed
19 through and collected by the Commission for appropriate disbursement.

20 **SEC. 13. Health Care Benefits.** – All professional boxers shall be
21 enrolled in the National Health Insurance Program (PhilHealth) to enable them
22 to receive and avail of an adequate package of personal health services
23 including, but not limited to, in-patient hospital care, out-patient care,
24 emergency and transfer services, and other supplementary health benefits, as
25 may be provided in the PhilHealth programs. The cost of premium contribution
26 shall be fully paid by the Commission to be directly remitted to the Philhealth.

27 In case of hospitalization in any government hospital or clinic, any
28 required hospital and physician's fees in excess of PhilHealth benefit shall be
29 shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), provided that
30 the boxer shall comply with the requirements for qualification and grant of
31 health care assistance to be extended by the PCSO consistent with and subject
32 to compliance with PCSO's existing rules and guidelines.

1 **SEC. 14. *Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/or Injured***
2 ***Professional Boxers.*** – The Commission, in coordination with various
3 stakeholders in the boxing industry, shall establish an alternative livelihood
4 training program and referral system for retired and/or injured boxing
5 champions.

6 **SEC. 15. *Retirement Benefits.*** – Professional Filipino boxers who won a
7 world championship in the World Boxing Championship (WBC), International
8 Boxing Federation (IBF), World Boxing Organization (WBO), World Boxing
9 Association (WBA) shall receive a lifetime retirement pension of Twenty
10 Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) monthly upon reaching the age of sixty (60).
11 Retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and distinct from the
12 mandatory requirement benefits provided by existing laws.

13 The Commission is authorized to adjust the benefits provided in this
14 section every ten (10) years based on studies, consultations, and public
15 hearings with relevant agencies and entities. However, no memorandum order
16 or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement incentive benefits.

17 **SEC. 16. *Survivorship Benefits.*** – In the event of the death of the
18 Professional boxer, his/her surviving legal spouse or in the absence of such
19 spouse, his/her other primary beneficiaries together, or in the latter's absence
20 his/her secondary beneficiaries in the order mentioned under Section 3 (j),
21 shall receive the monthly pension due him, as-provided under Section 16 of
22 this Act.

23 **SEC. 17. *Education and Training Benefits.*** – A Professional boxer, or
24 the boxer's designated beneficiary, may avail any of the following scholarship
25 programs, subject to a selection process and accreditation of the participating
26 institutions as may be determined by the Commission:

27 a) Skills-for Employment Scholarship Program. – For technical or
28 vocational training scholarship;

29 b) Education for Development Scholarship Program. – For
30 baccalaureate program; and

31 c) Boxing Sports Science Program. - To ensure the competitive
32 advantage of Filipino boxers in achieving healthy and safety boxing standards.

1 The annual scholarship lists of all these programs shall be submitted to
2 the Commission

3 **SEC. 18. Appropriations.** – The amount of One Hundred Fifty Million
4 Pesos (P150,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of
5 this Act, which shall be taken from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
6 (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) in
7 equal shares. Thereafter, such amount needed to implement this Act shall be
8 included in the Annual Appropriations of the Commission subject to the
9 retention of the amount mandated under Section 20 of this Act. The
10 Commission is hereby authorized to re-align its appropriations in the current
11 year of the date of effectivity of this Act to conform with the requirements of
12 this Act.

13 **SEC. 19. Boxers Welfare Development Trust Fund.** – There shall be an
14 independent and separate trust fund established under this Act, to be
15 administered by the Commission. An amount not less than eighty per cent
16 (80%) accrued from the licensing, registration and accreditation fees and fines
17 and charges shall be used for the purpose of the Boxers Welfare Development
18 Trust Fund, ten per cent (10%) for the national Government Share and the
19 remaining ten per cent (10%) for administration. The trust fund may also
20 accept grants and donations from national and foreign entities and individuals
21 interested in the development of the boxing industry.

22 The said Trust Fund shall be used for, but not limited to, the death and
23 disability benefits of the professional boxers. The guidelines for the availment of
24 the said benefits shall be determined by the Commission based on the
25 actuarial studies.

26 **SEC. 20. Transitory Provision.** – Pending the organization of the
27 Commission, the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) shall continue to exercise
28 the duties and functions in relation to professional boxing sports.

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

32 **SEC. 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – The
33 Commission in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), the

1 Department of Education (DepED), the CHED, the TESDA, the Department of
2 Finance (DOF), the BIR, the PAGCOR, the PCSO, the PhilHealth, among others,
3 and other concerned agencies shall promulgate and issue the IRR within sixty
4 (60) days upon approval of this Act: Provided, That the failure of the
5 Commission to promulgate the rules and regulations shall not prevent the
6 implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

7 **SEC. 22. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
8 executive orders, rules or regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the
9 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

10 **SEC. 23. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall
11 be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not
12 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

13 **SEC. 24. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
14 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of
15 general circulation.

16 Approved,