

SENATE

S. No. 1306

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEES ON SPORTS; HEALTH AND
DEMOGRAPHY; AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS
PACQUIAO, TRILLANES IV, EJERCITO, PIMENTEL III,
SOTTO III, ZUBIRI, GORDON AND VILLANUEVA AS
AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING AND
COMBAT SPORTS COMMISSION AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as
2 the “Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission Act
3 of 2018”.

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of
5 the State to promote sports to foster patriotism and
6 nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote
7 human liberation and development. The State shall
8 promote excellence in professional boxing and combat

1 sports by establishing a Commission that will formulate
2 and implement a national policy for the development and
3 safety of Filipino professional boxers and combatants.

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

6 (a) *Boxer* – means an individual who fights another
7 in a boxing match;

8 (b) *Combat sports* – means any of the following or a
9 combination of any of the following:

10 (1) Boxing or fistfighting in any of its styles

11 (2) Kickboxing in any of its styles

12 (3) Any sport, martial art or activity that involves,
13 in accordance with the applicable regulation, striking,
14 kicking, hitting, grappling, throwing and/or punching
15 opponents;

16 (c) *Combatant* – means a person who engages in
17 combat sport as a contestant in professional combat sport
18 contests;

19 (d) *License* – shall refer to a document issued by
20 the Commission authorizing a person or entity to perform

1 duties as a privilege connected with professional boxing
2 and combat sports;

3 (e) *Manager* – means a person who receives
4 compensation for service as an agent or representative of a
5 professional boxer or combatant;

6 (f) *Permit* – shall refer to a document issued by the
7 Commission authorizing a person or entity to hold,
8 promote or engage in the conduct or operation of a
9 professional boxing match;

10 (g) *Professional boxer* – shall refer to a boxer who
11 is issued a license by the Commission to receive a sum of
12 money or other compensation as a salary or prize money for
13 fighting in a boxing match;

14 (h) *Professional boxing match* – shall refer to a boxing
15 match between professional boxers that shall receive
16 money or other compensation for fighting in said match, but
17 shall not refer to a boxing contest that is regulated by an
18 amateur sports organization; and

19 (i) *Promoter* – shall refer to a person, group of
20 persons, or an entity, licensed as such by the Commission

1 and primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and
2 producing a professional boxing match. The term
3 "promoter" does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other
4 commercial establishment hosting or sponsoring a
5 professional boxing match unless – (i) the hotel, casino,
6 resort, or other commercial establishment is primarily
7 responsible for organizing, promoting and producing the
8 match; and (ii) there is no person or group of persons
9 primarily responsible for organizing, promoting and
10 producing the match.

11 SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Boxing and Combat*
12 *Sports Commission.* – To carry out the above declared
13 policy, the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports
14 Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, is
15 hereby created. The Commission shall be attached to the
16 Office of the President and have the same status as a
17 national regulatory agency.

18 SEC. 5. *Objectives.* – The Commission shall have the
19 following objectives:

1 (a) To strengthen professional boxing and combat
2 sports in the Philippines and promote the development of
3 world-class professional boxers and combatants; and

4 (b) To establish policies related to professional boxing
5 and combat sports, to regulate professional boxing and
6 combat sports and to protect the welfare of professional
7 boxers and combatants.

8 SEC. 6. *Composition.* – The Commission shall be
9 composed of a Chairman and four (4) members that shall
10 be appointed by the President of the Philippines: *Provided,*
11 That the Chairman and two (2) of the members shall be
12 chosen from nominees of the Philippine Sports
13 Commission (PSC), one (1) member chosen from the
14 nominee of the Department of Health (DOH), and one (1)
15 member from the private sector.

16 Nominations by the PSC and the DOH shall be
17 submitted to the Office of the President thirty (30) days
18 prior to expiration of the term of office of incumbents, or
19 within thirty (30) days from the occurrence of any vacancy
20 in the Commission. Said nominees shall have nationally

1 recognized experience and comprehensive knowledge in
2 professional boxing and combat sports activities and
3 known integrity.

4 SEC. 7. *Term of Office.* – The term of office of the
5 commissioners shall be six (6) years: *Provided*, That no
6 vacancy shall be filled except for the unexpired portion of
7 any term. The Chairman and members of the Commission
8 may be suspended or removed by the President of the
9 Philippines.

10 SEC. 8. *Meetings and Quorum.* – The Commission
11 shall meet regularly once a month and as often as the
12 exigencies of the service may demand, upon the call of the
13 Chairman or upon the request of three (3) members of the
14 Commission. The vote of a majority of the entire
15 membership shall be necessary for the adoption of any
16 rule, resolution or decision of the Commission.

17 SEC. 9. *Allowances and Per Diems.* – The members of
18 the Commission shall receive a *per diem* for each meeting
19 actually attended by them at the rates set by the

1 Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) in accordance
2 with the rules pursuant to Republic Act No. 10149.

3 SEC. 10. *Powers and Duties of the Commission.* – The
4 Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

5 (a) To formulate, review and update the rules and
6 procedures related to professional boxing in the Philippines
7 in conformity with international standards in order to
8 regulate boxing and combat sports for the accomplishment
9 of its objectives;

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

1 (c) To formulate, initiate, plan and implement a
2 national policy for the development of professional boxing
3 and combat sports in the country;

4 (d) To establish a consultative mechanism which
5 shall provide a forum for continuing dialogues between all
6 stakeholders in the implementation of all laws, policies,
7 programs and projects relating to boxing and combat sports;

8 (e) To seek or request the assistance and support of
9 any government agency, office or instrumentality including
10 government-owned and -controlled corporations, local
11 government units as well as nongovernmental
12 organizations or institutions in pursuit of its policies;

13 (f) To establish and maintain linkages with
14 international boxing organizations or institutions and
15 counterpart agencies of foreign governments in order to
16 facilitate and ensure the participation of Filipino
17 professional boxers and combatants in international
18 events;

19 (g) To determine and set a safety standard for and to
20 ensure that emergency medical personnel and services are

1 available in every professional boxing match and combat
2 sports in the Philippines;

3 (h) To establish a system of registration and
4 licensing of boxers, combatants, referees, trainers, seconds,
5 cutman and other personnel necessary for the boxing and
6 combat sports;

7 (i) To maintain an integrated registry of
8 professional boxers, combatants, coaches, trainers, judges,
9 referees, and promoters who will comprise the registered
10 stakeholders of the industry;

11 (j) To act as a quasi-judicial board when it shall
12 deem necessary to initiate, undertake, hear and decide any
13 investigation for any violation of its rules and regulations
14 concerning professional boxing and combat sports and, in
15 connection therewith, shall have the power to issue
16 *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum*;

17 (k) To allocate resources for the implementation of
18 national policies related to boxers and combatants;

1 l) To submit an annual report on the
2 implementation of this Act to the President and to
3 Congress; and

4 m) To perform such other functions as may be
5 necessary to effectively and efficiently carry out the
6 provisions of this Act. The functions of the Games and
7 Amusement Board (GAB) as well as other entities related
8 to boxing and combat sports are hereby transferred to the
9 Commission.

10 SEC. 11. *Secretariat.* – The Commission shall
11 establish a secretariat, which shall be headed by an
12 executive director and such other technical and
13 administrative staff as may be needed and as determined
14 by the Commission. The secretariat shall implement the
15 policies and programs approved by the Commission and
16 administer its day to day functions. Their salaries,
17 allowances and other emoluments shall be determined by
18 the Commission in accordance with civil service rules,
19 salary standardization law, and other relevant and
20 existing laws.

1 SEC. 12. *Physical and Medical Examination*
2 *Requirements.* – No person may arrange, promote,
3 organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing and
4 combat sports match without a physical and diagnostic
5 examination for each participating professional boxer or
6 combatant by an accredited and licensed physician of the
7 Commission, certifying whether or not the boxer or
8 combatant is physically fit to safely compete, pursuant to
9 the rules and regulations of the Commission.

10 SEC. 13. *Mandatory Rest Period.* – There shall be an
11 interval between boxing contests and combat sports
12 matches which shall be referred to as mandatory rest
13 period. The duration for mandatory rest period shall be
14 determined by the Commission.

15 SEC. 14. *Emergency Medical Services.* – A professional
16 boxing and combat sports match may be held only if:

17 (a) A licensed practicing physician, whose services
18 are paid by the promoter and duly registered with the
19 Commission, is continuously present at the ringside of the
20 professional boxing and combat sports match;

1 (b) Ambulances services, including oxygen tanks and
2 other medical personnel equipped with appropriate
3 resuscitation equipment continuously present on the
4 ringside; and

5 (c) A tertiary hospital is near the vicinity of the
6 event: *Provided*, That a memorandum of agreement shall
7 be executed between the promoter of the professional
8 boxing and combat sports match and said hospital to
9 ensure the injured boxers and combatants shall be
10 attended to in their facility with dispatch.

11 Absence of the aforementioned requirements shall be
12 a cause for the cancellation of the permit to hold the
13 scheduled professional boxing and combat sports match.

14 SEC. 15. *Social Pension and Health Care Benefits.* –
15 All professional boxers and combatants shall be enrolled in
16 the Social Security System (SSS), National Health Insurance
17 Program – Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, and the
18 Home Development Mutual Fund or PAG-IBIG, and shall
19 be entitled to all the benefits in accordance with the
20 pertinent provisions provided by law. The SSS shall

1 develop and administer a separate and special social
2 security program for boxers and combatants. This special
3 program may have different contribution, pension and
4 other benefit schemes. Premium payments or contributions
5 shall be shouldered by the professional boxers and
6 combatant's promoter.

7 SEC. 16. *Boxing and Other Combat Sports Officials.*

8 – All the boxing and combat sports officials involved in any
9 boxing event or combat match shall not receive funds or
10 compensation, in any form, directly or indirectly, from the
11 promoter or its agents. Such funds shall be coursed
12 through and collected by the Commission for appropriate
13 disbursement.

14 SEC. 17. *Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired*

15 *and/or Injured Professional Boxers and Combatants.* – The
16 Commission, in coordination with various stakeholders in
17 the boxing and combat sports industry, shall establish an
18 alternative livelihood training program and referral
19 system.

1 SEC. 18. *Appropriations.* – The amount of One
2 hundred fifty million pesos (P150,000,000.00) shall be
3 appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act,
4 sourced from the President's Contingent Fund. Thereafter,
5 the amount needed to implement this Act shall be included
6 in the General Appropriations Act.

7 SEC. 19. *Boxers and Combatants Welfare Development*
8 *Trust Fund.* – There shall be an independent and separate
9 trust fund established under this Act, to be administered
10 by the Commission and exclusively used for the welfare
11 benefits of professional boxers and combatants. The
12 Commission shall be authorized to receive grants,
13 donations, endowment from various sources, domestic or
14 foreign, for purposes related to their functions, which shall
15 accrue to the said fund: *Provided,* That in cases of
16 donations from foreign governments, acceptance thereof
17 shall be subject to the prior clearance and approval of the
18 President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the
19 Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

1 SEC. 20. *Transitory Provision.* – Pending the
2 organization of the Commission, the GAB shall continue to
3 exercise the duties and functions in relation to professional
4 boxing and combat sports.

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

9 SEC. 21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*
10 – The Commission in consultation with the DOH, the
11 Department of Education (DepED), the Commission on
12 Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and
13 Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Department of
14 Finance (DOF), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the
15 Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
16 (PAGCOR), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
17 (PCSO), the PhilHealth, among others, and other
18 concerned agencies shall promulgate and issue the IRR
19 within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act: *Provided,*
20 That the failure of the Commission to promulgate the rules

1 and regulations shall not prevent the implementation of
2 this Act upon its effectivity.

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

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

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

Approved,