



SENATE

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S. B. NO. 1615

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Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SPORTS VARSITY TEAMS IN
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV Section 19 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.”

Republic Act No. 9155 otherwise known as the “Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001” and Republic Act No. 5708 or “The Schools Physical Education and Sports Development Act of 1969” also provide that integrated physical education and school sports and physical fitness program shall remain part of the basic education curriculum and shall be undertaken by the Department of Education.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), consistent with its mandate of promoting interdependence among nations, has also identified the practice of sports as an instrument for promoting peace and as a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and networks.¹

Numerous studies in the field of Educational Psychology also pointed out the importance of early experience or exposure in later development suggesting that optimal athletic skills development should commence from

¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/physical-education-and-sport/sport-for-peace-and-development/> (accessed on October 19, 2017)

early childhood to late adulthood. Hence, to optimize the development of Filipino athletes and future champions and to help them acquire positive values such as empathy and respect for others, institutionalizing varsity sports teams in elementary and secondary levels, especially in the public schools, becomes a necessity.

The Department of Education, the agency in charge of the country's basic education cycle or the K-12 system, should ensure greater focus to the formative years of the country's pool of athletes. The institutionalization of varsity sports teams in basic education, along with after-school sports programs (ASSP), will improve the identification, selection and long-term training of athletes in various sporting events.

Through a varsity system, student athletes in K-12 will have better chance to play athletically at a higher level. Furthermore, an institutionalized varsity sports team in basic education can pave the way for the provision of training equipment and upkeep of modern facilities that can help improve the training of young athletes.

However, since long-term training of student athletes is expensive, both public and private elementary and secondary schools are encouraged to network with parent-teachers associations, local governments, business community and other organizations to provide the much needed assistance for varsity sports in all our schools.

In the 2018 proposed budget of the Department of Education, the appropriation for Physical Fitness and School Sports amounts to only Php358,155,000.00 for the conduct of Palarong Pambansa and other sports competition.² It's about time for the agency to provide additional funding to support school sports to optimize the development of Filipino athletes.

Helping Filipino athletes to hone their skills at a very early age is a necessity and an urgency. In the 29th South East Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Philippines missed its projection of 50 gold medals and absorbed its poorest finish in terms of gold medal production in the last 18 years. In the past two editions of SEA Games – in Myanmar and Singapore in 2013 and 2015, respectively, the Philippine contingent won only 29 gold medals.³

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to develop a pool of Filipino athletes and future champions and to improve the country's performance in international competitions, especially the SEA Games.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

² House Bill No. 6215 or the 2018 General Appropriations Bill

³ "Team PH braces for worst SEA Games output in 18 years" available at <http://news.abs-cbn.com/sports/08/28/17/team-ph-braces-for-worst-sea-games-output-in-18-years> (accessed October 19, 2017)



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ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “*Sports*
2 *Varsity Teams in Basic Education Act of 2017.*”
3

4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy
5 of the State to promote physical education and encourage sports programs,
6 league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international
7 competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the
8 development of a healthy and alert citizenry.
9

10 To this end, the state shall provide opportunities for optimal and long-
11 term development of Filipino athletes by expanding the base of student
12 athletes, increasing the time and frequency for their early exposure, training
13 and competition through the institutionalization of sports varsity teams in the
14 basic education cycle.
15

16 **SECTION 3. Institutionalization of Sports Varsity Teams.** – To
17 ensure the optimal and long term development of Filipino athletes, elementary
18 and secondary schools, both public and private, shall institutionalize sports
19 varsity teams.
20

21 There shall at least be a varsity team for athletics for every school as
22 athletics forms the base for other sports. The school shall expand the number
23 of sport events to cover gradually according to the school’s after-school sports
24 program, interests of students, coaches and the community.

1
2 Sports events that shall be considered in the establishment of varsity
3 teams in elementary and secondary levels shall include, but not limited to, the
4 following:

- 5
- 6 1. Archery
- 7 2. Arnis
- 8 3. Badminton
- 9 4. Baseball
- 10 5. Basketball
- 11 6. Boxing
- 12 7. Chess
- 13 8. Football
- 14 9. Gymnastics
- 15 10. Sepak Takraw
- 16 11. Soft Ball
- 17 12. Swimming
- 18 13. Table Tennis
- 19 14. Taekwondo
- 20 15. Tennis
- 21 16. Volleyball
- 22 17. Billards
- 23 18. Futsal
- 24 19. Wrestling
- 25 20. Wushu
- 26 21. Aerobics Gymnastics
- 27 22. Dance Sports
- 28 23. Pencak Silat
- 29 24. Basketball 3X3

30
31 The establishment of varsity teams in traditional and indigenous
32 games, dances and sports shall also be encouraged.

33
34 **SECTION 4. Organization of Sports Varsity Team.** – The
35 organization of sports varsity teams shall consider the following:

- 36
- 37 a. Presence of competent and committed teacher-coaches;
- 38
- 39 b. Availability of facilities and equipment;
- 40
- 41 c. Administrative support; and
- 42
- 43 d. Support of the community.
- 44
- 45

1 **SECTION 5. Identification of Athletes.** – The Department of
2 Education (DepEd) shall provide a sports varsity selection and admission
3 system.

4
5 All K-12 learners who are officially enrolled in Elementary, Junior High
6 School, Senior High School, Open High School and Alternative Learning
7 Systems, especially those who participate in the after school sports program
8 (ASSP) and who can meet the following requirements can join their school's
9 sports varsity teams:

- 10
11 a. Must have passed the physical fitness tests and skill tests;
12
13 b. With parental consent; and
14
15 c. In good academic standing.

16
17 **SECTION 6. Selection and Deployment of Competent Coaches.** – It
18 shall be the responsibility of the school administration to secure the services,
19 of competent coaches. Teachers, including sports coordinator, trained in
20 sports coaching are the priority in the selection of coaches.

21
22 Former outstanding athletes from among the parents or community
23 residents may be tapped to serve as volunteer coaches in the sports where
24 they excel and gained national or international recognition. Likewise, students
25 and graduates of the Sports Track in the Senior High School (SHS) shall be
26 tapped to provide assistance in the training of Sports Varsity Teams.

27
28 The Sports Varsity Teams may also serve as a venue for the practicum
29 and/or immersion of students in the Sports Track.

30
31 **SECTION 7. Recognition and Training of Coaches.** – DepEd shall
32 create a mechanism to provide incentives and/or recognition to volunteer
33 coaches.

34
35 DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission, National
36 Sports Associations, Philippine Olympic Committee and the private sector
37 shall develop programs to train varsity coaches to become certified trainers
38 based on international standards.

39
40 **SECTION 8. Time and Frequency of Training.** – The implementing
41 school has the discretion to determine the time and frequency of training of
42 the varsity teams, provided that the trainings are conducted after the regular
43 class hours and shall not interfere with instructionally relevant activities
44 pursuant to engaging students in learning the lessons of the curriculum.

45
46 **SECTION 9. More Competition.** – Aside from the calendar of regular
47 sports competitions conducted by the DepED, private and public schools shall
48 organize varsity match with neighboring schools. A league may be composed
49 of public and private schools.

1 Furthermore, elementary and secondary school may partner with
2 existing stadiums and sports centers in the community to host varsity
3 matches.

4
5
6 **SECTION 10. Equipment for Sports Varsity.** – It shall be the
7 responsibility of the school administration to secure the equipment necessary
8 to sustain the training of sports varsity teams. Such equipment may be
9 sourced from regular budget and extra-budgetary means such as donations
10 from the community.

11
12 The DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission,
13 shall be responsible for maintaining a databank of standard facilities and
14 equipment, their technical specifications, suppliers and indicative prices for
15 every sport covered in international competitions.

16
17 **SECTION 11. Performance Profiling of Student Athletes.** – There
18 shall be a school-based profiling of student athletes. In case of a student
19 athlete's transfer to another school, it is the responsibility of his/her former
20 coaches to transmit his/her athletic profile to the new school to ensure proper
21 recognition and continuous training and development. The student athlete's
22 profile shall show results of his/her previous competition/s and improvement in
23 clocking in the case of measurable sports.

24
25 All elementary and secondary schools shall register and update their
26 student athletes' profile from time to time.

27
28 **SECTION 12. Registry of Student Athletes.** – DepEd shall maintain a
29 registry of student athletes and shall make this accessible to colleges and
30 universities, Philippine Sports Commission, National Sports Associations,
31 Philippine Olympic Committee and other private sport groups and
32 organizations and shall be used solely for identification of potential inclusion
33 to varsity teams in college and universities or in the case of the Philippine
34 Sports Commission, selection of national athletes who can represent the
35 Philippines in international sporting events.

36
37 **SECTION 13. Incentives.** – Recognitions and incentives shall be
38 awarded to school coaches and school heads for their support to the
39 organization/registration of their school varsity teams.

40
41 Teacher-coaches shall be given service credits and/or additional
42 compensation or overtime pay for work performed in excess of eight (8) hours
43 in accordance with law.

44
45 **SECTION 14. Appropriation.** – The funds necessary for the
46 institutionalization of sports varsity teams, especially the provision of
47 equipment, in elementary and secondary schools, shall come from the regular
48 appropriation of DepEd.

1 **SECTION 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety
2 (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd Secretary and the
3 Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission, upon consultation with
4 relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed for
5 the implementation of this Act.

6
7 **SECTION 16. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders,
8 rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
9 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

10
11 **SECTION 17. Separability Clause.** If, for any reason, any section or
12 provision of this bill is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or
13 provisions hereof shall remain in force.

14
15 **SECTION 18. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen days after
16 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

17
18
19 **Adopted.**
20

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

'17 NOV 20 A10:31

P. S. RES. NO. 545

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING TERESITA SSEN
“WINWYN” MARQUEZ FOR BEING CROWNED AS THE REINA
HISPANOAMERICANA 2017

WHEREAS, Winwyn Marquez became the first Asian winner of Reina Hispanoamericana pageant last November 4, after she bested 26 candidates, during the coronation night in Sta. Cruz, Bolivia;

WHEREAS, The Reina Hispanoamericana pageant celebrates Hispanic heritage and culture. The Philippines is the first Asian country to join the pageant, having been a colony of Spain for more than three centuries;

WHEREAS, the 25-year old charmed her way to the crown despite having difficulty with the language and beautifully explained that “[l]anguage can be learned but the will and determination to contribute to the organization cannot. It has to come from the heart;”

WHEREAS, the Filipina beauty queen’s positive and strong determination to fulfill her dream of winning the title is indeed a positive example and great inspiration to her countrymen, particularly the youth, that no dream is impossible as long as she puts her heart and mind to it;

RESOLVE BY THE SENATE, that the Senate of the Philippines recognizes and commends Teresita Ssen “Winwyn” Marquez on her victory at the 2017 Reina Hispanoamericana, and extends its warmest gratitude for bringing pride and glory to all Filipino citizens.

Adopted,


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA