EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



SENATE

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19 JUL -8 P3:18

s. No. <u>286</u>

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator PIA S. CAYETANO

## AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes that "the 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."

Student-Athletes are a pool of students who have exceptional talents and skills in sports that could be further honed and developed in a school setting. At a young age, they have to embrace a dual role – being a student and an athlete at the same time. Thus, this bill recognizes their special circumstance and aims to provide support and parameters on how they can thrive and excel in both fields of study and sports.

As a bill of rights for Student-Athletes, it endeavours to address issues and concerns encountered for many years by many Student-Athletes past and present because, aside from Republic Act No. 10676 or the "Student-Athletes Protection Act", there is a dearth of laws which promote and protect the overall welfare of Student-Athletes.

It is the purpose of this bill to provide appropriate recognition and protection to the rights and of general welfare Student-Athletes encompassing academic, amateur sports, and mental and physical health aspects. On the other hand, it also acknowledges that these Student-Athletes are in a special situation and thus the bill also specifies the accompanying responsibilities that they have to fulfill to this end. Schools, athletic associations, Student-Athletes and their parents shall recognize and uphold the amateur nature of the programs and competitions that Student-Athletes participate in.

This bill also recognizes that Student-Athletes should be protected from any discriminatory policy that may restrict their participation in any field of amateur sports that they have chosen to participate and compete in and consequently hinder the development of their full potential as athletes and well-rounded citizens of our country.

Lastly, this bill recognizes the vital role of the schools and accredited athletic associations, not only in providing the opportunity and avenue for Student-Athletes to participate and excel in sports, but also ensuring the protection of Student-Athletes from physical harm, discrimination, and other potentially harmful consequences of training and competing in their respective fields of amateur sports.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

PLAS CAYETANO

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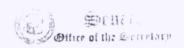
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### Introduced by Senator PIA S. CAYETANO

## AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Magna Carta of Student-Athletes."

Sec. 2. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to Student-Athletes of any school that conducts athletic programs and competitions.

Sec. 3. Declaration of Policy. – Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution recognizes the role of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Further, Section 19 (1) of the same Article provides that the State shall promote physical education, sports programs, and competitions alongside training for international competitions to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the attainment of a healthy and alert citizenry. Thus, the State shall recognize and uphold the rights of Student-Athletes to further hone their skills and abilities in their respective fields of amateur sports without neglecting their education and general well-being.

It is the intention of this law to protect and promote the rights of the Student-Athlete, who is, first and foremost, a student. To this end, the rights guaranteed by this law and the obligations imposed on schools, athletic associations and their officials and representatives shall seek to ensure that the Student-Athlete attains quality education while honing his/her skill and reaching his/her full potential as an athlete in an amateur sports setting. Ultimately, this law aims to enable the Student-Athlete to enjoy a balanced life while in school and at play.

Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- 4.1. Athletic Association refers to any organization that is responsible for governing inter-school athletic programs and competitions such as, but not limited to, the Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA), University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA), State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA), Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc. (CESAFI), and National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA), among others but shall not include National Sports Associations (NSAs).
- 4.2. National Sports Associations (NSAs) refer to associations organized for their respective sports in the Philippines and/or affiliated with their respective international federations which are recognized by the International Olympic Committee or the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), including associations formed to represent the interest of athletes in a particular sport.
- 4.3. School refers to an institution recognized by the State which undertakes educational operations such as grade school, high school, college, university, or technical-vocational education and training institution.
- 4.4. Student-Athlete refers to a student currently enrolled in any school who is part of any of the school's athletic teams or programs and is representing or has an intention to represent the school in an interschool athletic program or competition; *Provided,* That a student shall still be considered a Student-Athlete for purposes of certain provisions of this Act if there is a valid reason for his/her non-enrollment, such as a long term illness, severe incapacity, or personal reasons that are a

serious hindrance to enrolling that term; *Provided further*, That for purposes of being eligible to represent his/her school in an inter-school athletic program or competition, the Student-Athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies and be in good academic standing.

# Sec. 5. *Rights of Student-Athletes.* – Student-Athletes shall have the right to: 5.1 Education

- (a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have his/her educational needs prioritized by the participating school or athletic association. To this extent, the school administration will strive to provide tutorials or extra academic support to assist the Student-Athlete in maintaining good scholastic standing.
- (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have his/her academic performance monitored by the participating school to ascertain how his/her involvement in athletic programs and competitions affects his/her class performance.
- (c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be allowed by the participating school to be excused from class, which will not be charged against his/her allowable absences, due to sports-related activities and circumstances attested as true by the concerned coach or sports official: *Provided,* That he/she makes up for the missed classes/activities/tests.
- (d) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to continue availing of his/her full or partial scholarship for his/her continued education and/or financial support even after suffering from injury that resulted from his/her participation in the athletic program which prevents his/her from further training for and competing in inter-school competitions.
- (e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to complete his/her academic requirements on time. In no case shall a Student-

Athlete in junior or senior high school be allowed to repeat a year level and play at the same time.

### 5.2 Health and Safety

- (a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to train and compete in safe and healthy environments as provided by the school during practice and training sessions or by the athletic association during inter-school athletic programs and competitions.
- (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to safe, well-maintained, and upgraded equipment, and well-fitted uniforms to be provided by the school or athletic association.
- (c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have access to health care professionals who will monitor his/her physical health condition and nutritional needs, particularly during training and competitions and right after the competitions, as provided by the school, and to medics in emergency situations during athletic programs or competitions, as provided by the athletic association.
- (d) It is the right of current and former Student-Athletes to receive free or subsidized medical expense coverage from the participating schools or athletic associations he/she represented or is representing in case of any physical injury or sports-related harm suffered by him/her as a result of his/her participation in the athletic program or competition.
- (e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have privacy with regard to any personal health information that might cause defamation or insult towards himself/herself, such as his/her family's medical history or physical or mental condition requiring treatment, among others.
- (f) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to file for a temporary Leave of Absence (LOA) from his/her sport participation in school due to valid grounds, such as the need to focus on

1	studies, illness/sickness or any personal/family reasons;
2	Provided, That an absence beyond a reasonable period may
3	result in the loss of scholarship or other privileges and; Provided
4	further, That it is understood that he/she cannot participate in
5	events of the athletic associations.
6	(g) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be protected by the
7	school or athletic association against exploitation, inappropriate
8	influences, and other circumstances prejudicial to his/her
9	physical, mental, emotional, social, and moral development,
10	such as public humiliation, among others.
11	5.3 Choice of School
12	(a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to transfer from his/her
13	current school to any school that he/she is accepted in for any
14	reason such as, but not limited to:
15	<ol> <li>Unavailability of his/her desired class/course;</li> </ol>
16	2. Failure to pass the class/course leading to
17	dismissal;
18	<ol><li>Violation of the school's policy leading to dismissal;</li></ol>
19	or
20	<ol><li>Personal reasons/considerations.</li></ol>
21	(b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be free from any act
22	of restriction or punishment by the old and/or the new school
23	due to his/her transfer from the former to the latter in
24	accordance with Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10676 or the
25	"Student-Athletes Protection Act".
26	5.4 Other Rights
27	(a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to undergo trainings
28	and workshops for the further development of his/her skills
29	related to his/her sport. To this end, the school or the athletic

association cannot prohibit the Student-Athlete from attending such trainings or workshops; *Provided,* That the Student-Athlete endeavors to schedule the same on a date that does not conflict with the game of the school and the athletic association.

- (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to try out and participate in international competitions where he/she will represent the country and other national competitions. This shall not prevent him/her from playing for his/her school team or in any competitions of athletic associations; *Provided,* That he/she remains in good academic standing.
- (c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to receive or renew his/her athletic grants for the current semester or term; *Provided,* That he/she complies with the requirements of the school where he/she is enrolled in.
- (d) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be coached by skilled sports officials who are trained in sport-specific safety and equipped with the latest information about the risks and hazards of their respective sports. It is also the right of the Student-Athlete to be trained by a coach other than the ones associated with his/her school; *Provided,* That the same is coordinated with his/her coach and/or director of the school's athletic program or the latter's equivalent; *Provided further,* That the Student-Athlete shall not be prevented from exercising said right without valid cause.
- (e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have consistent, open, and inclusive dialogue with school officials and athletic associations with regard to the establishment of rules, policies, and regulations that concern and affect them.
- (f) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be treated with respect and dignity and be free from any form of discrimination

on account of age, sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, 1 ideology, disability, education and status. 2 (g) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be free from abuse 3 or violence, be it physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, 4 psychological, spiritual, or cultural in nature. Abuse or violence 5 may occur between the Student-Athlete and his/her coach, a 6 school official or employee, or a fellow Student-Athlete. 7 Student-Athletes are strongly encouraged to promptly report 8 any incident involving abuse or violence in order to facilitate a 9 fast and satisfactory resolution thereof. 10 (h) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have opportunities to 11 engage in other safe recreational activities for the wholesome 12 use of his/her leisure hours; *Provided,* That it is not inconsistent 13 with his/her sport and will not expose him to undue risks. 14 (i) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to engage in gainful 15 employment; Provided, That it does not interfere with his/her 16 studies, training schedule, and competition and does not 17 prevent him/her from playing for his/her school team or in any 18 competitions of athletic associations; Provided further, That 19 he/she remains in good academic standing. 20 Sec. 6. Obligations of Student-Athletes. - For active involvement in the 21 promotion and protection of their rights: 22 6.1. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to conduct 23 himself/herself in a responsible manner at all times, reflective of the 24 values of the school he/she represents, bearing in mind that he/she 25 carries the name and colors of his/her school and is a role model to the 26 other students. 27 6.2. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to train regularly and 28

6.3. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to represent his/her

school in competitions chosen by his/her coach and/or school. In case

obey the rules set by his/her coach and the school.

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of conflict between a school-sanctioned competition and other competitions, he/she is duty-bound to prioritize the school-sanctioned competition with the exception of international competitions or prequalifying events for international competitions.

- 6.4. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to voluntarily present himself/herself for the pre- and post-competition general health examinations;
- 6.5. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to voluntarily attend trainings and workshops designed and conducted for him/her.
- 6.6. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to prioritize his/her academic performance to ensure that his/her participation in sports will not disrupt or hinder the completion of his/her class/course. He/she shall diligently attend classes and comply with the minimum class/course load, pass grade requirement and other requirements set by the schools.

A Student-Athlete shall not be allowed to participate in any competition if he/she has not attained the minimum passing requirement to qualify him/her to go to the next level, unless he/she completes his/her missing requirements during summer break.

- 6.7. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete not to use, offer other Student-Athletes or purchase any performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) and other prohibited substances.
- 6.8. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to uphold the integrity of the games, the name and reputation of his/her school and the athletic association he/she is representing by not being involved in betting, game-fixing, wagering, gambling and other illicit acts or activities; nor shall he/she be affiliated or involved with persons associated with gambling and/or game-fixing.
- 6.9. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to practice and maintain a respectful and non-violent attitude towards himself/herself, other athletes, coaches, sports officials, and any person in general.

6.10. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to preserve and promote the amateur nature of school-sanctioned competitions in all stages, from recruitment to competition, that he/she participates in.

### Sec. 7. Obligations of Schools -

- 7.1. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to support the Student-Athlete in fulfilling his/her responsibilities, first and foremost, as a student and then as an athlete.
- 7.2. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide counselors, other than the coach, who will help the Student-Athlete in his/her academic work, in balancing his/her responsibilities and in reaching his/her full potential.
- 7.3. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to monitor the academic performance of the Student-Athlete and certify that he/she complies with the minimum class/course load, passes grade requirement and other requirements set in this Act and by the schools.
- 7.4. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide the Student-Athletes with a safe and healthy training environment.
- 7.5. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide the Student-Athlete with safe, well-maintained, and upgraded equipment and well-fitted uniforms.
- 7.6. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide the Student-Athlete access to health care professionals who will monitor his/her physical health condition and nutritional needs, particularly during training and competitions and right after the competitions.
- 7.7. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide the Student-Athlete free or subsidized medical expense coverage in case of any physical injury or sports-related harm suffered by him/her as a result of his/her participation in the athletic program or competition.
- 7.8. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to maintain the Student-Athlete's full or partial scholarship for his/her continued education and/or financial support even after suffering from injury that

resulted from his/her participation in the athletic program which prevents him from further training for and competing in inter-school competitions.

7.9. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete to file a temporary LOA from the athletic team or program due to valid grounds such as the need to focus on studies, illness/sickness or any personal/family reasons; *Provided*, That an absence beyond a reasonable period may result in the loss of scholarship or other privileges and; *Provided further*, That it is understood he/she cannot participate in events of the athletic associations.

7.10. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to protect the privacy of any personal health information of the Student-Athlete that might cause defamation or insult towards him/herself, such as his/her family's medical history or physical or mental condition requiring treatment, among others.

7.11. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to protect the Student-Athlete against exploitation, inappropriate influences, and other circumstances prejudicial to his/her physical, mental, emotional, social, and moral development, such as public humiliation, among others.

7.12. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to uphold the Constitutional right of the Student-Athlete to a quality education which includes the choice of school or the right to transfer to another school for any reason such as, but not limited to, those enumerated in Section 5.3 (a), subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10676 or the "Student-Athletes Protection Act".

7.13. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete to try out and participate in international competitions where he/she will represent the country and other national competitions. This shall not prevent him/her from playing for his/her

school team or in any competitions of athletic associations; *Provided*,

That he/she remains in good academic standing.

7.14. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to grant or renew the Student-Athlete's athletic grants for the current semester or term:

7.14. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to grant or renew the Student-Athlete's athletic grants for the current semester or term; *Provided,* That the Student-Athlete complies with the requirements of the school.

7.15. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete to be coached by skilled sports officials who are trained in sport-specific safety and equipped with the latest information about the risks and hazards of their respective sports. To this end, the school and their officials shall respect the right of the Student-Athlete to be trained by a coach other than the ones associated with the school; *Provided*, That the same is coordinated with his/her coach and/or the director of the school's athletic program or the latter's equivalent, who shall not prevent said athlete from exercising said right without valid cause

7.16. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to ensure that no Student-Athlete shall, on account of age, sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, disability, education and status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any athletic program or activity.

Schools shall take into account its total women student population in granting athletic scholarship. There shall be a *pro rata* representation of women in the athletic scholarship program based on the percentage of women in the whole student population.

7.17. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to protect the Student-Athlete from abuse or violence, be it physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual, or cultural in nature. The schools and their officials shall promptly take notice of and act upon incidents of abuse or violence against the Student-Athletes.

7.18. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Student-Athlete from Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) and other prohibited substances. To this end, school officials or representatives who offer or pressure the Student-Athletes into taking PEDs and other prohibited substances shall be terminated from the school.

7.19. It is the duty of the schools and their officials not to sponsor, operate, advertise or promote any betting, game-fixing, wagering or gambling scheme based, directly or indirectly, on one or more competitive games in which Student-Athletes participate, or are intended to participate, or on one or more performances of the Student-Athletes in such games.

7.20. It is the duty of the schools and their officials not to intentionally suspend or otherwise delay the Student-Athlete in junior or senior high school from graduating in order to lengthen the period of the Student-Athlete's eligibility to play for the school.

7.21. It is the duty of the schools not to offer benefits and incentives to the Student-Athlete to the extent that it results in the commercialization of the Student-Athlete in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 of Republic Act No. 10676 or the "Student-Athletes Protection Act".

7.22. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to support the Student-Athlete's right to undergo trainings and workshops for the further development of his/her skills. To this end, the school cannot prohibit the Student-Athlete from attending such trainings or workshops; *Provided,* That he/she will endeavor to schedule the same on a date that does not conflict with the game of the school.

7.23. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to conduct forums to inform all new Student-Athletes and school officials of this law and their corresponding rights and obligations herein. Various forms of communication shall also be employed to keep all Student-Athletes and

school officials informed of updates, issues and reminders regarding the exercise of the rights and observation of the obligations mentioned herein.

It is also the duty of the school and their officials to conduct forums educating the Student-Athlete on different topics including discrimination against women, dangers of PEDs and protection from violence and abuse.

7.24. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete the opportunity to engage in other safe recreational activities for the wholesome use of his/her leisure hours; *Provided,* That it is not inconsistent with his/her sport and will not expose him to undue risks.

7.25. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete to engage in gainful employment; *Provided,* That it does not interfere with his/her studies, training schedule, and competitions.

7.26. It is the duty of the schools and their officials to preserve and promote the amateur nature of school-sanctioned competitions in all stages, from recruitment to competition, that the Student-Athlete participates in.

### Sec. 8. Obligations of Athletic Associations -

8.1 It is the duty of the athletic associations to support the Student-Athlete's choice of school without any restriction or penalty. In the event that the issue is brought to the athletic association, the same shall be resolved in favor of honoring the right of choice of the Student-Athlete; *Provided,* That there are no violations of Section 7.21.

8.2 It is the duty of the athletic associations to ensure that the Student-Athlete plays in a safe and healthy environment during interschool athletic programs and competitions.

8.3. It is the duty of the athletic associations to provide the Student-Athlete with safe, well-maintained, and upgraded equipment for use during inter-school athletic programs and competitions.

8.4. It is the duty of the athletic associations to provide the Student-Athlete access to medics in case of accidents, injuries, and other emergency situations during athletic programs or competitions.

8.5. It is the duty of the athletic associations to keep and protect the privacy of any personal health information of the Student-Athlete that might cause defamation or insult towards himself/herself, such as his/her family's medical history or physical or mental condition requiring treatment, among others.

8.6. It is the duty of the athletic associations to protect the Student-Athlete against exploitation, inappropriate influences, and other circumstances prejudicial to his/her physical, mental, emotional, social, and moral development, such as public humiliation, among others.

8.7. It is the duty of the athletic associations not to sponsor, operate, advertise or promote any betting, game-fixing, wagering or gambling scheme based, directly or indirectly, on one or more competitive games in which Student-Athletes participate, or are intended to participate, or on one or more performances of the Student-Athletes in such games.

8.8. It is the duty of the athletic associations to support the Student-Athlete's right to undergo trainings and workshops for the further development of his/her skills. To this end, athletic associations cannot prohibit the Student-Athlete from attending such trainings or workshops; *Provided,* That the Student-Athlete will endeavor to schedule the same on a date that does not conflict with the game of the athletic association.

8.9. It is the duty of the athletic associations to allow the Student-Athlete to try out and participate in international competitions where he/she will represent the country and other national competitions. This shall not prevent him/her from playing for his/her school team or in any competitions of athletic associations; *Provided*, That he/she remains in good academic standing.

8.10. It is the duty of the athletic associations to sanction member-schools which violate the rights of the Student-Athlete or fail to address the same or otherwise allow its officials to do so. In this regard, athletic associations shall enact rules which shall support this Act and provide sanctions for violations thereof, which may include suspension or disqualification of erring member-schools or officials thereof from inter-school athletic programs and competitions.

8.11. It is the duty of the athletic associations to preserve and promote the amateur nature of school-sanctioned competitions in all stages, from recruitment to competition, that the Student-Athlete participates in.

### Sec. 9. Obligations of NSAs and the Philippine Sports Commission -

9.1. It is the duty of NSAs to support the schedule of the various athletic associations to the extent possible, so as not to schedule tryouts, trainings or trips abroad during crucial training periods or competitions.

Sec. 10. *Implementation.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department on Education (DepEd), the athletic associations (UAAP, NCAA, WNCAA and SCUAA, among others), and the PSC, with the participation of representatives from sports organizations with proven track records of involvement and promotion of the rights and welfare of Filipino athletes, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

The DepEd and CHED shall penalize schools that disregard a Student-Athlete's academic rights and/or that do not sanction its officials for doing so. DepEd and CHED shall also be responsible for penalizing schools that offer or abet in the offer of incentives and benefits beyond those allowed by Section 7.21 of this Act. To this end, DepEd and CHED may impose sanctions such as, but not limited to, diminution or withdrawal of subsidy, recommendation on the downgrading or withdrawal of

- accreditation, program termination, or school closure; *Provided*, That these shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10676 or the "Student-Athletes
- 3 Protection Act", when applicable.
- Sec. 11. Separability Clause. If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.
- Sec. 12. Effect on Republic Act No. 10676. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to have amended or repealed Republic Act No. 10676, otherwise known as the Student-Athletes Protection Act.
- Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.
- Sec. 14. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

  Approved,