

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 SEP 11 P1 56

SENATE

S. No1032

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
GRANTING HEALTH CARE, RETIREMENT, AND DEATH BENEFITS TO
PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR
IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines consistently earns respect and adulation from all over the world due to the championships won by our professional athletes with world-class talents. Among those are Gabriel Elorde, Luisito Espinosa, Gerry Penalosa, Nonito Donaire, and Senator Emmanuel Pacquiao in the boxing arena; Lydia de Vega and Elma Muros-Posadas in Track and Field; Rafael Reyes, Francisco Bustamante and Rubilen Amit in Billiards; and Eugene Torre in Chess.

Most sports are physical in nature and many of our Filipino athletes risk their lives to become champions. Unlike other career professionals, the career lifespan of a professional athlete is short. Many do not reach the age of 40 before retiring, giving way to the much younger and stronger athletes. Some are forced to retire because they have passed the height of their careers. Others are just given bad breaks in life after winning a tie.

This bill seeks to provide health care and retirement privileges and death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles in

international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world championship games, who have given honor, glory and pride to the Philippines, in both individual and team events through the following: (a) extend medical insurance and medical assistance to hospitalized professional Filipino champions, (b) grant a monthly pension of P15,000.00 to individual world champions at the retirement age of 50 years, and (c) death benefits to help in funeral services/expenses.

This bill recognizes the honor, glory and pride professional Filipino athletes have given our country, and also reassures them that their efforts are not forgotten.

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

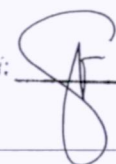

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress be assembled:*

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Professional Filipino
2 Athletes Health Care, Retirement and Death Benefits Act."

3
4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State shall provide health care,
5 retirement and death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world
6 championship titles in international professional sports competitions or in other equally
7 prestigious world championship games, in both individual and team events, in
8 recognition of the glory and honor they bestowed to the Philippines.

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

- 12
13 a. *Professional Filipino athletes* shall refer to athletes who are Filipino citizens
14 and paid a sum of money or other compensation as a salary or prize money
15 for participating in a game, bout, tournament, or contest of professional

1 sport, either as an individual contestant or as a member of a team under a
2 contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or team
3 owner and licensed by the Games and Amusement Board (GAB);
4

5 b. *Professional sports* shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contests,
6 bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is
7 paid sums of money and other forms of compensation as regular salary or
8 prize for participation, which are accredited and recognized by the GAB;
9

10 c. *International professional sports competitions* shall refer to international
11 compensations that confer world championship titles in both individual and
12 team events which are duly sanctioned and recognized by international
13 sporting organizations and bodies and accredited by the GAB;
14

15 d. *Other equally prestigious world championship games* shall refer to other
16 international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or
17 stature as world championship titles and recognized as such by the GAB.
18

19 SECTION 4. *Health Care Benefits.* — Professional Filipino athletes shall be
20 covered by the National Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), through a
21 special program sponsored by the GAB, which will provide the required local
22 government premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PhilHealth.
23 Upon reaching the age of fifty (50), the athlete shall be an honorary member
24 of the program, subject to existing rules and regulations of the PhilHealth.
25

26 In case of hospitalization of the professional Filipino athlete in any
27 hospital or clinic, any amount in excess of the PhilHealth benefit shall be
28 shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its
29 Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP); *Provided,* That the requirement
30 for qualification and grant of the health care assistance to be extended by the
31 PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to the compliance with PCSO's

1 existing rules and guidelines; *Provided, further,* That any qualified beneficiary
2 shall have the option to waive the benefits mentioned under this section.
3

4 SECTION 5. *Retirement Benefits.* — Professional Filipino athletes as
5 defined under this Act, who win in international professional sports
6 competitions shall, upon reaching the age of fifty (50), receive the following
7 retirement benefits:

8 A. For individual events – a lifetime monthly pension of at least fifteen
9 thousand pesos (Php 15,000.00) for the individual winner;

10 B. For team sports events – a lifetime monthly pension of at least ten
11 thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) for each team member;
12

13 *Provided,* That for athletes who win in both individual and team events,
14 the retirement benefits for individual events shall apply.

15 Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of
16 fifty (50) and have availed of retirement benefits under this Act may continue
17 with such employment: *Provided,* That the retirement benefits under this Act
18 shall be separate and distinct from the mandatory retirement benefits provided
19 by existing laws.
20

21 SECTION 6. *Death Benefits.* — Upon the death of the professional
22 Filipino athlete, the primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death
23 benefit of fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) to cover funeral
24 services/expenses: *Provided,* That, if there are no primary beneficiaries, the
25 secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to the said benefits.

26 For purposes of this Act, the primary beneficiaries shall refer to
27 legitimate spouse, legitimate or illegitimate children. Secondary beneficiaries
28 shall refer to the parents, and in their absence, to the brothers or sisters of
29 the professional Filipino athlete.
30

31 SECTION 7. *Retroactive Effect.* — The benefits provided under this Act
32 shall retroact to all living professional Filipino athletes who, prior to the

1 enactment of this Act, have won in any international professional sports
2 competition, upon compliance with the requirements that shall be prescribed
3 by the GAB in its Implementing Rules and Regulations: *Provided*, That the
4 winning professional Filipino athlete was duly licensed by the GAB at the time
5 of the competition and the sports events participated in was recognized and
6 accredited by the GAB.

7
8 SECTION 8. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits.* — The adjustment in
9 retirement benefits provided in Section 5 hereof may be authorized, subject to
10 the approval of the President, upon the joint recommendation of the Secretary
11 of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Chairman of the
12 GAB, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with relevant
13 agencies, entities and concerned athletes or coaches. However, no
14 memorandum, order or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement
15 benefits.

16
17 SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* — The Chairman of the GAB shall
18 immediately include in the Board's program the implementation of the benefits
19 under this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
20 Appropriations Act.

21
22 SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The GAB, in
23 consultation with the Senate, the House of Representatives and other
24 concerned agencies, shall promulgate and issue the Implementing Rules and
25 Regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

26
27 SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act
28 shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected
29 thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

30
31 SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees,
32 executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent

1 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
2 accordingly.

3
4 SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 after its publication in the Official Gazette and at least one newspaper of general
6 circulation.

7
8 *Approved,*
9