

SENATE

S. No. 258

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to extend monthly pensions and other privileges to boxers and other athletes who became world champions at one time in their lives.

Athletes, especially boxers, risk lives and limbs in order to give honor and glory to their motherland. Boxers in particular go to the rings unmindful of danger to themselves, but only armed with the thought that what they are doing redounds not only to their benefit but to the country as well. Inside the ring, however, anything could happen – the boxer loses his sight, even consciousness and ultimately his life. Hence, woe to the champion who became incapacitated or even died without seeing any financial reward in case of incapacity or death.

The prestige that boxing great Manny Pacquiao, our very own compatriot from General Santos City, has brought to the country in the international arena cannot be overemphasized. Undoubtedly, he has restored the Philippines in the world boxing map, earning the adulation and respect not only of his countrymen but of boxing aficionados all over the world.

We not only excel in boxing but in other sports as well. Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros-Posadas, the bowling hall-of-famer Paeng Nepomuceno – all are world- or regional- class champions themselves. The list is endless but our memories are short.

But champions are champions. They deserve something better than a mere pat in the back or the adulation of his countrymen. They ought to receive something tangible when all the admiring glances and shrieking sounds are gone.

The cases of former Filipino world boxing champions Rolando Navarette and Luisito Espinosa are cases in point. Navarette is reduced to the life of a pauper-dependent on charitable gestures from his countrymen for his existence and for his medical expenses. Luisito Espinosa is forced to fight mediocre fights just so he could survive in a far away land (the United States). Alone and abandoned, they are left with nothing to themselves. Something needs to be done.

This bill, therefore, seeks to grant a monthly pension of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00) to former world champions upon retirement at age 50 or who became incapacitated in pursuing their careers. Likewise, this bill shoulders the hospitalization

and medical expenses of said athletes at not more than Two Hundred Thousand (P200,000.00) Pesos per hospitalization.

In view of the foregoing circumstances, approval of this bill is urgently requested.



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

1 12-6 2011

SENATE

S. No. 258

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
GRANTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS TO
PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO HAVE WON WORLD TITLES
OR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.-** This Act shall be known as the "*Filipino Professional*
2 *Athletes Retirement Incentive and Health Care Benefits Act of 2010*".

3

4 **SEC.2. Declaration of Policy.-** The State shall provide retirement incentive and
5 health care benefits to professional Filipino athletes, who have won World Titles or
6 World Championships, and who in their twilight years are unable to provide for
7 themselves and their families economically, and are therefore marginalized despite the
8 glory and honor they earned for their country.

9

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

12 (a) Professional Athlete. - shall refer to any natural person who is paid a sum of
13 money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a game,
14 bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either as an individual contestant or

1 member of a team under a contract entered into with a professional sports
2 promoter/operator or team owner and licensed by the Games and Amusements Board;

3 (b) Filipino athlete. - shall refer to professional athletes who are citizens of the
4 Philippines, except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of R.A. No. 9225 otherwise
5 known as the “ Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003” ;

6 (c) Professional Sport. - shall refer to an individual or team sport, games, contest,
7 bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of
8 money and other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which
9 are conducted with the required permits duly issued by the Games and Amusements
10 Board;

11 (d) International competitions. - shall refer to international sports competitions,
12 including Regional Championships, which are accredited and duly recognized by the
13 Games and Amusements Board;

14 (e) Recognized sporting international organizations. - shall refer to international
15 bodies that are recognized, accredited, have mutual working relationship, agreement,
16 and/or memorandum of understanding with the Games and Amusements Board.

17
18 **SEC. 4. Retirement Incentive Benefits.** - Professional Filipino athletes who have
19 won individual or team world titles/championships in any international sports
20 competitions duly sanctioned by recognized international sporting organizations and
21 bodies shall receive the following retirement incentive benefits:

22 a. Any individual who have won world title/s or championship/s shall
23 receive a lifetime retirement incentive of Fifteen Thousand Pesos
24 (P15,000) monthly upon reaching the age of fifty (50).

25 b. Each member of a team who has won a world title or championship in
26 any team sporting event shall receive a lifetime retirement incentive of

1 Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) monthly upon reaching the age of
2 fifty (50).

3 Provided, however, that only those athletes who at the time of their retirement
4 earns less than the minimum daily wage as prescribed by the National Wages and
5 Productivity Commission, shall be entitled to the retirement incentive benefits provided
6 herein.

7 Provided, further, that athletes who are actively employed upon reaching the age
8 of 50 and have availed of the retirement incentive benefits may continue with such
9 employment until the mandatory retirement age under existing laws.

10
11 **SEC. 5. Health Care Benefits.** – A Professional athlete who has won in an
12 international sports competition shall be covered by the National Health Insurance
13 Program as provided under RA 7875, as amended, within two months upon conferment
14 of the award.

15 In case of hospitalization in any government hospital or clinic, any amount in
16 excess of PHILHEALTH benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity
17 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), provided that the athlete shall comply with the requirements
18 as prescribed by the PCSO. Provided, further, that the PCSO shall shoulder only a
19 maximum of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000) per hospitalization.

20
21 **SEC. 6. Retroactive Effect.** - The benefits provided under this Act shall retroact
22 to all living professional athletes who have won in any international sports event after
23 complying with the requirements that shall be prescribed by the GAB in its Implementing
24 Rules and Regulations.

1 **SEC.7. *Adjustment of Retirement Incentive Benefits.*** - The Games and
2 Amusements Board is hereby authorized to adjust the retirement incentive benefits
3 provided in Section 4 hereof, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with
4 relevant agencies and entities. However, no memorandum, order, or issuance shall
5 diminish the prescribed retirement incentive benefits.

6
7 **SEC. 8. *Funding.***- The amount necessary for the implementation of the
8 retirement incentive benefits shall be taken from the net cash income of the Philippine
9 Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). For this purpose, the GAB shall
10 submit to the PAGCOR an annual budget, together with a certified list of actual
11 beneficiaries of the program, for the proper disbursement of funds. Such funds shall be
12 subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

13 The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) shall provide the necessary
14 funds as provided under Section 5 hereof.

15 The necessary funding for the PhilHealth coverage of the qualified professional
16 athletes shall be charged to the current appropriations of the Games and Amusements
17 Board. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall
18 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19
20 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***- The Games and Amusements
21 Board, in coordination with concerned agencies shall promulgate and issue the
22 Implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

23
24 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause*** - If any provision or part of this Act shall be held
25 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall
26 continue to be in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
2 rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
3 Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4

5 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in at least three (3) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,