

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 885

Introduced by Honorable Eileen Ermita-Buhain

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 19, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides:

> "SEC. 19. (1) 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.
>
> (2) All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors."

This bill seeks to require all educational institutions and athletic teams sponsored by commercial establishments to actively cooperate and assist the National Government in the selection, training and formation of national teams that will compete in all international sports competitions.

It is no secret that the Philippines lags far behind in sports development compared to our Asian neighbors. The reason is certainly not because of a dearth of athletes but because of lack of cooperation and coordination among the government agencies concerned, educational institutions and other sectors involved in the implementation of sports programs such as the selection and training of athletes.

There are educational institutions which maintain a pool of talented athletes but refuse to allow their players to join the national team in international competitions during its inter-school competitions. On the other hand, private sectors such as commercial establishments are constrained to play for the national team on account of its contractual obligations. These contractual obligations serve as legal barrier in the determination of a competitive national team because of limited selection.

The dismal failure of our national athletes to improve their medal standing in international competition such as Olympics, Asian Games and Southeast Asian Games indicates the need for urgent measures to refocus the thrust in our sports programs and policies.

Thus, the proposed measure aims to utilize qualified athletes or players trained and maintained by educational institutions and commercial establishments in the selection and formation of national teams for international competitions.

Hence, early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

EILEEN ERMITA-BUHAIN

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AN ACT
REQUIRING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH MAINTAIN ATHLETIC TEAMS TO ALLOW THEIR ATHLETES OR PLAYERS TO JOIN IN THE SELECTION POOL AND FORMATION OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL TEAMS THAT WILL COMPETE IN ALL INTERNATIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. Educational institutions and commercial establishments which maintain athletes and teams participating in professional or amateur sports competitions, are hereby required to allow their athletes or players to join in the selection pool and formation of national teams that will compete in all international sports competitions.

SEC. 2. Such educational institutions and commercial establishments are enjoined to actively cooperate and assist the National Government in the promotion and development of a strong and competitive national team. They are required to assist in the identification, recruitment and training of gifted and talented athletes on their areas of expertise to ensure a wide base for the selection of national athletes who will represent the country in international sports competitions.

SEC. 3. Any person who shall violate the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 hereof shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year or a fine ranging from Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) to One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

In case the offender is a corporation, association, or any other juridical person, the president, treasurer, secretary or any other responsible person thereof shall be held liable therefor. In addition, its license or franchise shall be suspended for a period of one year.

The responsible public official or employee who shall violate the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 hereof shall suffer the penalties provided in the first paragraph of this Section for private persons, in addition to the penalty of temporary absolute disqualification.

SEC. 4. The Philippine Sports Commission in consultation with the Department of Education and the Games and Amusements Board shall within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,