

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

Thirteenth Congress

House Bill No. **4068**



Introduced by Reps. Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio and Francis Joseph G. Escudero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Boxers risk lives and limbs in order to give honor and glory to their motherland. They 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 become 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 underestimated. Undoubtedly, he had restored the Philippines in the world map, earning the adulation and respect not only of his countrymen but of boxing aficionados the world over.

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. This bill therefore is a step in this direction.

Hence, this bill seeks to grant a monthly pension of Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00) to former world boxing champions upon retirement at age 55 or who become incapacitated to pursue their boxing careers. Likewise, this bill shoulders the hospitalization and medical expenses of said boxers and a cash incentive of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) upon conferment of the world boxing championship award.

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 has to be done and fast!

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



FRANCIS JOSEPH G. ESCUDERO



DARLENE R. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO

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AN ACT
GRANTING CERTAIN PRIVILEGES AND MONTHLY PENSIONS TO FORMER
WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE.

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

SECTION 1. A Filipino boxer who had gained recognition as a world champion in any weight category from a recognized international world boxing federation or association, shall be granted the following privileges:

1. A cash award of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) upon conferment of the boxing world championship award;
2. Medical and hospitalization benefits;
3. Coverage by a lifetime insurance policy in the amount of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) by the Government Service Insurance System and/or private insurance companies from date of conferment of the award, in the event the boxer is insurable, the premiums for which shall be paid by the National Government or by donation from any governmental or private entities;
4. A life pension of Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00) payable monthly upon reaching the age of 55 or in case of total permanent incapacity.

SEC. 2. The amount as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation should be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Philippine Sports Commission shall issue rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.