

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
House of Representatives

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5069



Introduced by Hon. Robert "Dodot" B. Jaworski, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

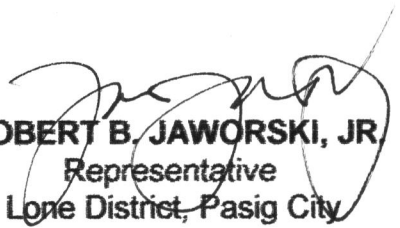
This bill seeks to protect boxers in the professional boxing industry by ensuring their safety and well-being and protecting professional boxers from coercive and misleading contracts and providing sanctions for any violations thereof.

It will also promote honorable competitions in professional boxing and enhance the overall integrity of the industry.

Further, this bill seeks to provide reforms in boxing agreements and requires enhanced financial disclosures embodied in said fight contracts to improve public perception of the sport.

Today, we have Manny Paquiao. Yesterday we had Pancho Villa, Gabriel "Flash" Elorde and countless others. Tomorrow, we are sure to have other boxers that will endure and give honor to our country. It is our duty to ensure that they are taken care of.

In view of the foregoing and with our commitment to the welfare of our Filipino professional boxers, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROBERT B. JAWORSKI, JR.
Representative
Lone District, Pasig City

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AN ACT
REGULATING PROFESSIONAL BOXING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Flash Elorde Boxing Reform Act of 2006.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared as a policy of the State to promote, encourage and sustain the development of professional boxing in the country through the establishment of uniform and appropriate boxing industry practices and ethical standards for the protection of professional boxers and preservation of public interest.

SEC. 3. Objectives. – The objectives of this Act are:

- a) To protect the right and welfare of professional boxers by preventing exploitive, oppressive and unethical business practices;
- b) To provide proper oversight body of the professional boxing industry;
- c) To promote honorable competition in professional boxing and enhance the overall integrity of the industry; and
- d) To provide reforms in boxing agreements and require enhanced financial disclosures to improve public perception of the sport.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. – For Purposes of this Act, the term:

- a) “Boxers” refers to an individual who fights in a professional boxing match;

- b) " GAB" refers to the Games and Amusement Board, a government agency mandated to regulate and supervise the sport of professional boxing in the Philippines;
- c) " Manager" refers to a person who receives compensation for services as an agent or representative of a boxer;
- d) " Matchmaker" refers to a person who proposes, selects and arranges boxers to participate in a professional boxing match;
- e) " Professional Boxing Match" refers to a boxing contest between individuals for financial compensation.;
- f) " Promoter" refers to a person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting and producing a professional boxing match; and
- g) " Sanctioning Organization" refers to an organization authorized to sanction professional boxing matches in the country.

SEC. 5. *Minimum Boxing Contract Provisions.* – The GAB shall issue within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, rules and regulations mandating the inclusion in all boxing agreements minimum boxing contract provisions that shall protect the rights and welfare of professional boxers against exploitive, oppressive and unethical business practices.

SEC. 6. *Health and Safety Standards.* – No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce or fight in a professional boxing match without meeting each of the following requirements that provide protection to the health and safety of the boxers;

- a) a physical examination of each boxer by a physician who must certify that the boxers are physically fit to safely compete, copies of which must be submitted to the GAB.
- b) An ambulance or medical personnel with appropriate resuscitation equipment must be continuously present on the site;
- c) A competent physician must be continuously present at ringside;

and

- d) Health insurance for each boxer to provide medical coverage for any injury sustained in the match.

SEC. 7. *Conflict of interest* – No member or employee of the GAB or any person who administers or enforces boxing laws may belong to, contract with, or receive any compensation from, any person who sanctions, arranges, or promotes professional boxing matches or who otherwise has a financial interest on an active professional boxer.

SEC. 8. *Required Disclosures to GAB by Sanctioning Organizations.*

– A sanctioning organization, to be entitled to receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with a boxing match, shall submit to the GAB the following:

- a) Statement of all charges, fees and cost that the organization will assess on any boxer participating in that match;
- b) Statement of all payments, benefits and fees that the organization will receive for its affiliation with the event, from the promoter, host of the event and other sources; and
- c) Other additional information as the GAB may require.

SEC. 9. *Required Disclosures for Promoters.* – a) *Disclosures to the GAB* - A promoter, to be entitled to receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with a boxing match, shall submit to the GAB the following:

- 1) A copy of any agreement in writing to which the promoter is a party with any boxer participating in the match;
- 2) A statement made under oath with corresponding penalty of perjury giving false information that there are no other agreements, written or oral, between the promoter and the boxer with respect to that match; and

- 3) Statement of all fees, charges, and expenses that will be assessed by or through the promoter on the boxer pertaining to the event, including any portion of the boxer's purse that the promoter will receive, and training expenses; all payments, gifts, or benefits that the promoter is providing to any sanctioning organization affiliated with the event, and any reduction in a boxer's purse contrary to a previous agreement between the promoter and the boxer or a purse bid held for the event.
- b) *Disclosure to the Boxer* – A promoter, to be entitled to receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with a boxing match, shall provide the boxer the following:
- (1) The amounts of any compensation or consideration that a promoter has contracted to receive from such match;
 - (2) All fees, charges and expenses that will be assessed by or through the promoter on the boxer pertaining to the event, including any portion of the boxer's purse that the promoter will receive, and training expenses; and
 - (3) Any reduction in a boxer's purse contrary to a previous agreement between the promoter and the boxer or a purse bid held for the event.

SEC. 10. *Required Disclosures for Judges and Referees.* – A judge or referee, to be entitled to receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with a boxing match, shall submit to the GAB a statement of all consideration, including reimbursement for expenses, that will be received from any source for participation in the match.

SEC. 11. *Judges and Referees.* – No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing match unless all referees and judges participating in the match have been certified and approved by the GAB

SEC. 12. Enforcement. – (a) Injunctions - Whenever the Office of the Solicitor General has a reasonable cause to believe that a person or entity committed a violation of this Act, the Solicitor General may bring a civil action in the appropriate court requesting such relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order, against the person or entity, as the Solicitor General determines to be necessary to restrain the person or entity from continuing to engage in, or to sanction, a professional boxing match in violation of this Act.

(b) Criminal Penalties - (1) Managers, Promoters, Matchmakers, and Licensees – Each manager, promoter, matchmaker, and licensee who knowingly and willfully violates any provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than ONE (1) year or fined not more than TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00), or both. (2) Boxers – Any professional boxer who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than ONE (1) year or fined not more than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00).

SEC. 13. Consultation with boxing officials by the Office of the Solicitor General. – Not later than ONE (1) year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, to exchange information concerning the implementation and enforcement of this Act and to improve the safety and integrity of professional boxing as a sport, the Solicitor General shall consult with:

- (1) the appropriate official of the Boxing Associations of the Philippines;
- (2) private organizations that assist in the regulation of professional boxing matches.

SEC. 14. Pension Study. (a) The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment shall conduct a study on the feasibility and cost of a national pension system for professional boxers, including potential funding sources.

(b) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment shall submit a report to the Congress on the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the provisions of this Act is held invalid, all the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.