

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1004

Introduced by REP. MARK A. VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino star athletes have brought great honor, glory and pride to the country. At the height of their careers, they garner accolade and support of the people and the government they represent. Unfortunately, however, such accolade and support do not transcend the peak of their career and stardom. At their twilight years, there is a looming impression that they lose not only such accolade but also the support of the country to which they brought great pride and honor.

Such situation runs contrary to the basic state policy provided under Section 19 Article 14 of the Constitution which mandates the State to 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. Instead of providing for an inspiration to rising athletes, said situation discourages them from harnessing their talents for the benefit of the country, being under the impression that the support from their country is only for a brief moment.

Hence, there is a need for a law, which would provide incentive and support to Filipino athletes who have won world titles, and/or championships in duly recognized international sporting competition.

This bill would not only encourage young talents to bring pride and honor to the country, it would also recognize the honor and pride that Filipino athletes afforded their countrymen. This bill is a gesture which shows that Filipino athletes who have won titles and/or championships in duly recognized international sporting competition do not remain forgotten.

In view thereof, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



MARK A. VILLAR
Representative, Lone District of
Las Piñas City

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

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the **"Filipino Professional
Athletes Retirement Incentive and Health Care Benefits Acts of 2007."**

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

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

- a. **"Filipino athlete"** shall refer to professional or amateur athletes who are
citizens of the Philippines, except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue
of R.A. No. 9225 otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and
Acquisition Act of 2003";

- b. **"Professional athlete"** shall refer to any natural person who is paid sum of money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a game, bout or tournament or contest of professional sport, either as individual contestant or member of a team under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or team owner and licensed by the Games and Amusement Board (GAB).
- c. **"Amateur athlete"** shall refer to any natural person who does not get sum of money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a game, bout, tournament or sport.
- d. **"International competitions"** shall refer to international sport competitions, including Regional Championships, which are accredited and duly organized by the GAB;
- e. **"Recognized sporting organizations"** shall refer to international bodies that are recognized, accredited, have mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or memorandum of understanding with GAB.

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

- a. Any individual who have won world title/s or championship/s shall receive a lifetime retirement incentive of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000) monthly upon reaching the age of fifty (50).
- b. Each member of a team that have won a world title or championship in any sporting event shall receive a lifetime retirement incentive of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000) upon reaching the age of fifty (50).

Provided, further, that only those athletes who, at a time of their retirement, earn less than the minimum daily wage as prescribed by the National Wages and Productivity Commission, shall be entitled to the retirement incentive benefits provided herein.

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

SEC. 5. Health Benefits. A Filipino athlete who has won in an international sports competition shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program as provided under RA 7875, as amended, within two months upon conferment of the award.

In case of hospitalization in any government hospital or clinic, any amount in excess of PHILHEALTH benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), provided the athlete shall shoulder only a maximum of Two Hundred Pesos (P200, 000) per hospitalization.

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

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

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

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

The necessary funding for the PHILHEALTH coverage of the qualified athletes shall be charged to the current appropriations of the GAB. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations ACT.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The GAB, in coordination with concerned agencies shall promulgate and issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

SEC. 10. Severability Clause. If any provision or part of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act. are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,