

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 726

08 MAR 2011

Submitted by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development on _____

Re: House Bill No. 4352

Recommending its approval, in substitution to HB Nos. 38, 1964 and 2094

Sponsors: Representatives Renato J. Unico Jr., Pedro B. Acharon Jr.,
Mark A. Villar, and Mark Aeron H. Sambar

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Youth and Sports Development to which were referred House Bill No. 38 introduced by Rep. Pedro B. Acharon Jr., entitled:

" AN ACT GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR."

House Bill No. 1964 introduced by Rep. Mark A Villar, entitled:

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

and House Bill No. 2094 introduced by Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar, entitled:

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

has considered the same and recommends the approval of the attached House Bill No. **4352** in substitution of House Bill Nos. 38, 1964 and 2094 and with Reps. Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Jose Carlos L. Cari, Mark A. Villar, Mark Aeron H. Sambar,

Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Jose Carlos L. Cari, Mark A. Villar, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Daryl Grace J. Abayon, Raden C. Sakaluran, Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy, and Renato J. Unico, Jr. as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



REP. RENATO J. UNICO JR.
Chairman
Committee on Youth and Sports
Development

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

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

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4352**
(In Substitution to House Bill Nos. 38, 1964 and 2094)

Introduced by Representatives Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Jose Carlos L. Cari, Mark A. Villar, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Daryl Grace J. Abayon, Raden C. Sakaluran, Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy and Renato J. Unico, Jr.

AN ACT
GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1
2 SECTION 1. *Title.*- This Act shall be known as the "Professional Filipino Athletes
3 Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2011".

4 SEC.2. *Declaration of Policy.*- The State shall provide retirement, health care, and
5 death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles in
6 international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world
7 championship games, in both individual or team events, in recognition of the glory and honor
8 they bestowed to their country.

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

11 (a) Professional Filipino Athletes. - shall refer to athletes who are Filipino citizens and
12 paid a sum of money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a
13 game, bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either as an individual contestant or
14 member of a team under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or
15 team owner and licensed by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB);

16 (b) Professional Sports - shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest, bouts,
17 tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money and other

1 forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which are accredited and
2 recognized by the GAB;

3 (c) International Professional Sports Competitions. - shall refer to international
4 competitions that confer world championship titles in both individual or team events which are
5 duly sanctioned and recognized by international sporting organizations and bodies and
6 accredited by the GAB ;

7 (d) Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games - shall refer to other
8 international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or stature as world
9 championship titles and recognized as such by the GAB.

10 (e) International Sporting Organizations. - shall refer to international bodies that are
11 recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or
12 memorandum of understanding with the GAB .

13 SEC. 4. *Retirement Benefits.* - Professional Filipino athletes as defined under this Act,
14 who win in international professional sports competitions shall, upon reaching the age of fifty
15 (50), receive the following retirement benefits:

16 A. For Individual Events – a lifetime monthly pension of at least Fifteen Thousand Pesos
17 (Php15,000.00) for the individual winner;

18 B. For Team Events – a lifetime monthly pension of at least Ten Thousand Pesos
19 (Php10,000.00) for each team member;

20 *Provided, That* for athletes who win in both individual and team events, the retirement
21 benefits for individual events shall apply.

22 Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of fifty (50) and have
23 availed of the retirement benefits under this Act may continue with such employment *Provided,*
24 That the retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and distinct from the mandatory
25 retirement benefits provided by existing laws.

26 SEC. 5. *Health Care Benefits.* – Immediately upon winning in any international
27 professional sports competitions, professional Filipino athletes shall be covered by the National
28 Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH),
29 through a special program sponsored by the GAB, which will provide the required local
30 government premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PHILHEALTH. Upon reaching
31 the age of fifty (50), the athlete shall be an honorary member of the program, subject to existing
32 rules and regulations of the PHILHEALTH.

1 In case of hospitalization of the professional Filipino athlete in any hospital or clinic, any
2 amount in excess of the Philhealth benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity
3 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP):
4 *Provided*, That the requirement for qualification and grant of the health care assistance to be
5 extended by the PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to compliance with PCSO's
6 existing rules and guidelines: *Provided, further*, That any qualified beneficiary shall have the
7 option to waive the benefits mentioned under this Section.

8 SEC. 6. *Death Benefits*. - Upon the death of a professional Filipino athlete, the primary
9 beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Thirty Thousand Pesos
10 (Php30,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses: *Provided*, That, if there are no primary
11 beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

12 For purposes of this Act, primary beneficiaries shall refer to legitimate spouse,
13 legitimate or illegitimate children. Secondary beneficiaries shall refer to the parents, and in their
14 absence, to the brothers or sisters of professional athletes.

15 SEC. 7. *Retroactive Effect*. - The benefits provided under this Act shall retroact to all
16 living professional Filipino athletes who, prior to the enactment of this Act, have won in any
17 international professional sports competition, upon compliance with the requirements that shall
18 be prescribed by the GAB in its Implementing Rules and Regulations: *Provided*, That, the
19 winning professional athlete was duly licensed by the GAB at the time of the competition and
20 the sports event participated in was recognized and accredited by the GAB.

21 SEC. 8. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits*. The adjustment in retirement benefits
22 provided in Section 4 hereof may be authorized, subject to the approval of the President, upon
23 the joint recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management
24 (DBM) and the Chairman of the GAB, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with
25 relevant agencies, entities and concerned athletes or coaches. However, no memorandum,
26 order or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits.

27 SEC. 9. *Appropriations*. The Chairman of the GAB shall immediately include in the
28 Board's program the implementation of the benefits under this Act, the funding of which shall be
29 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

30 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - The GAB, in consultation with the
31 Senate, the House of Representatives and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate and
32 issue the implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

1 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act shall be held
2 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be
3 in full force and effect.

4 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules
5 and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
6 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

7 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a
8 newspaper of general circulation.

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10 Approved,

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FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 4352
(In substitution to HB Nos. 38, 1964 and 2094)

PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS ACT OF 2011

Introduced by: (REPS. PEDRO B. ACHARON JR., JOSE CARLOS L. CARI, MARK A. VILLAR, MARK AERON H. SAMBAR, DARYL GRACE J. ABAYON, RADEN C. SAKALURAN, BERNADETTE R. HERRERA-DY, AND RENATO J. UNICO, JR.)

*Committee Referral: Committee on Youth and Sports Development (primary)
Committee Chairperson: Rep. Renato Unico Jr.*

OBJECTIVE:

- To honor Filipino professional athletes who have brought glory and pride to the country by providing incentives and benefits

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Grants the following benefits and incentives, to wit:
 - a.) Lifetime monthly pension of FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P15,000.00) for the individual winner and TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) for each member of the team upon reaching the age of 50;
 - b.) PHILHEALTH coverage within two months upon conferment of the award;
 - c.) Thirty thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) lump sum death benefit to the athlete's primary or secondary beneficiaries; and
 - d.) Medical assistance under the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP), in case of hospitalization.
- Mandates that funds be provided for such benefits and incentives in the annual General Appropriations Act under the Games and Amusements Board

RELATED LAW:

- *None*

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

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 38

Introduced by Representative Pedro B. Acharon, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Athletes 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 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, now our colleague in has brought to the country in the international arena cannot be overemphasized. Undoubtedly, he had restored the Philippines in the world boxing map, earning the adulation and respect not only of his countrymen but of boxing aficionados the world over.

We not only excelled in boxing but in other sports as well. Lydia de Vega, Filma Muros-Posadas, the bowling hall-of-famer Paeng Nepomuceno, Efren "Bata" Reyes – 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, Luisito Espinosa and lately, Z. Gorres who became comatose after a successful fight 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). Z.

Gorres is lucky that many generous persons contributed to shoulder some of his hospital bills. Alone and abandoned, they are left with nothing to themselves. Something has to be *done and fast!*

This bill therefore, seeks to grant a monthly pension of Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00) to former world champions upon retirement at age 55 or who become incapacitated to pursue 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.


PEDRO B. ACHARON, JR.

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

Fifteen Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. _____ 38

Introduced by Representative PEDRO B. ACHARON JR.

AN ACT
GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL
FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL
PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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

4 SEC.2. *Declaration of Policy.*- The State shall provide retirement, health care, and death
5 benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles in international
6 professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world championship games, in both
7 individual or team events, in recognition of the glory and honor they bestowed to their country.

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

10 (a) Professional Filipino Athletes. - shall refer to athletes who are Filipino citizens and paid
11 a sum of money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a game,
12 bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either as an individual contestant or member of a
13 team under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or team owner and
14 licensed by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB);

15 (b) Professional Sports - shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest, bouts,
16 tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money and other
17 forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which are accredited and
18 recognized by the GAB;

1 (c) International Professional Sports Competitions. - shall refer to international
2 competitions that confer world championship titles in both individual or team events which are duly
3 sanctioned and recognized by international sporting organizations and bodies and accredited by
4 the GAB ;

5 (d) Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games - shall refer to other
6 international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or stature as world
7 championship titles and recognized as such by the GAB.

8 (e) International Sporting Organizations. - shall refer to international bodies that are
9 recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or memorandum
10 of understanding with the GAB .

11 SEC. 4. *Retirement Benefits.* - Professional Filipino athletes as defined under this Act,
12 who win in international professional sports competitions shall, upon reaching the age of fifty-five
13 (55), receive the following retirement benefits:

14 A. FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS – a lifetime monthly pension of at least fifteen
15 thousand pesos (php15,000.00) for the individual winner;

16 B. FOR TEAM EVENTS – a lifetime monthly pension of at least ten thousand
17 pesos (php10,000.00) for each team member;

18 *Provided, That* for athletes who win in both individual and team events, the retirement
19 benefits for individual events shall apply.

20 Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of fifty-five (55) and
21 have availed of the retirement benefits under this Act may continue with such employment
22 *Provided, That* the retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and distinct from the
23 mandatory retirement benefits provided by existing laws.

24 SEC. 5. *Health Care Benefits.* – Immediately upon winning in any international
25 professional sports competitions, professional Filipino athletes shall be covered by the National
26 Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) through
27 a special program sponsored by the GAB, which will provide the required local government
28 premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PHILHEALTH. Upon reaching the age of fifty-
29 five (55), the athlete shall be an honorary member of the program, subject to existing rules and
30 regulations of the PHILHEALTH.

31 In case of hospitalization of the professional Filipino athlete in any hospital or clinic, any
32 amount in excess of the Philhealth benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity
33 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP): *Provided,*

1 That the PCSO shall shoulder a maximum of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) per
2 qualified patient per year: *Provided, further*, That the requirement for qualification and grant of the
3 health care assistance to be extended by the PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to
4 *compliance with PCSO's existing rules and guidelines*: *Provided, finally*, That any qualified
5 beneficiary shall have the option to waive the benefits mentioned under this section.

6 SEC. 6. *Death Benefits*. - Upon the death of a professional Filipino athlete, his or her
7 primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Thirty Thousand Pesos
8 (Php30,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses: *Provided*, That, if he or she has no primary
9 beneficiaries, his or her secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

10 For purposes of this Act, primary beneficiaries shall refer to legitimate spouse, legitimate
11 or illegitimate children. Secondary beneficiaries shall refer to the parents, and in their absence, to
12 the brothers or sisters of professional athletes.

13 SEC. 7. *Retroactive Effect*. - The benefits provided under this Act shall retroact to all
14 living professional Filipino athletes who, prior to the enactment of this Act, have won in any
15 international professional sports competition, upon compliance with the requirements that shall be
16 prescribed by the GAB in its Implementing Rules and Regulations: *Provided*, that, the winning
17 professional athlete was duly licensed by the GAB at the time of the competition and the sports
18 participated in was recognized and accredited by the GAB.

19 Sec. 8. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits*. The adjustment in retirement benefits
20 provided in Section 4 hereof may be authorized, subject to the approval of the President, upon the
21 joint recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and
22 the Chairman of the GAB, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with relevant
23 agencies, entities and concerned athletes or coaches. However, no memorandum, order or
24 issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits.

25 Sec. 9. *Appropriations*. The Chairman of the GAB shall immediately include in the
26 Board's program the implementation of the benefits under this Act, the funding of which shall be
27 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

28 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - The GAB, in consultation with the Senate,
29 the House of Representatives and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate and issue the
30 Implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

31 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision or part of this Act shall be held
32 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in
33 full force and effect.

1 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at
5 least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

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7 Approved,
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CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1001

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

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1901

Introduced by REP. MARK A. VILLAR

**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,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2094**

Introduced by **Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides:

SEC. 17. The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

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 life and limb to give honor and pride to our nation. Boxers in particular go to the ring unmindful of danger to themselves, 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, consciousness, and even his life. It is a sad case for the champion who becomes incapacitated or even dies without seeing any financial reward in case of such tragedy.

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, and the Magician, Efren "Bata" Reyes, to name a few, are undeniably world-class talents. The list is endless but our memories are short.

They deserve something better than a mere pat in the back or the adulation of their countrymen. They ought to receive something tangible when all the admiring glances and shrieking sounds are gone. We are reminded of former greats who are reduced to paupers after a few bad breaks dealt to them.

This problem of apathy to the plight of our world class athletes needs to be addressed. 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 Pesos (P200,000.00) per hospitalization.

This bill shall give more than lip service to the lives that our athletes have dedicated for our nation. In view of the foregoing circumstances, approval of this bill is urgently requested.


HON. MARK AERON H. SAMBAR
Representative, Pwersang Bayaning Atleta Party List

House Bill No. 2094

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

-1 contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or team owner and licensed by
2 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 known
5 as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003";

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

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

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

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

20 a. Any individual who has won a world title or championship shall receive a lifetime
21 retirement incentive of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00) monthly upon reaching the age of
22 fifty (50).

23 b. Each member of a team who has won a world title or championship in any team
24 sporting event shall receive a lifetime retirement incentive of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)
25 monthly upon reaching the age of 50.

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

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

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

7 In case of hospitalization in any government hospital or clinic, any amount in excess of
8 PHILHEALTH benefits shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
9 (PCSO), provided that the athlete shall comply with the requirements as prescribed by the PCSO.

10 Provided, further, that the PCSO shall shoulder only a maximum of Two Hundred
11 Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) per hospitalization.

12 SEC. 6. *Retroactive Effect.* - The benefits provided under this Act shall retroact to all
13 living professional athletes who have won in any international sports event after complying with
14 the requirements that shall be prescribed by the Games and Amusements Board in its
15 Implementing Rules and Regulations.

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

21 SEC. 8. *Funding.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of the retirement
22 incentive benefits and other benefits in this Act shall be included in the annual General
23 Appropriations Act.

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

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

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

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

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

November 17, 2010, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room No. 11,
House of Representatives

PRESIDING CHAIRMAN:

REP. RENATO J. UNICO, JR. – Chairman, Committee on Youth and
Sports Development

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Mr. Juan Ramon Guanzon Chairman, Games and Amusements Board
2. Mr. Henry Reyes Assistant Vice President, Philippine Amusements
and Gaming Corporation
3. Dr. Giovanni Roan Medical Officer VII, Philippine Health
Insurance Corporation
4. Atty. Mabel Mamba Director, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office

I. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

The Chairman of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development, Rep. Renato J. Unico, Jr, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Upon motion of Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar, and duly seconded, the calling of the roll was dispensed with.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion of Rep. Sambar, and duly seconded, the calling of the roll was dispensed with.

III. PRELIMINARY REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

In his opening remarks, he mentioned that the measures in the agenda i.e. HB Nos. 38, 1964 and 2094 which seek to grant Retirement and Health Care and Death Benefits to Professional Athletes, are part of the Committee's priority measures for this Congress since a similar bill was already approved last Congress but the same was not enacted into law. He then expressed hope that the body would favorably consider the measures at hand.

Of the three measures filed, he mentioned that HB No. 38 of Cong. Pedro Acharon, Jr. was patterned after the substitute bill approved by the Committee last Congress, and to expedite the approval of the same he then suggested that the said bill should be made the lead bill and that HB Nos. 1964 and 2094 filed by Reps. Sambar and Mark Villar, respectively, be consolidated with HB No. 38.

He later informed the body that Rep. Mark Villar was out of the country but manifested his concurrence, through his Chief-of-Staff, for the consolidation of his authored bill with that of the other measures at hand.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Upon the instruction of the Chairman, the Committee Secretary acknowledged the presence of the following guests present in the meeting, to wit:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Juan Ramon Guanzon | Chairman, Games and Amusements Board |
| 2. Mr. Henry Reyes | Assistant Vice President, Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation |
| 3. Dr. Giovanni Roan | Medical Officer VII, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation |
| 4. Atty. Mabel Mamba | Director, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office |

V. INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF HB NOS. 38, 1964 AND 2094

Sponsorship Remarks

1. Rep. Pedro B. Acharon, Jr. (author of HB No. 38)

- In his sponsorship remarks, he said that our country, over the years, has produced world champions in sports like Elma Muros, Lydia de Vega and others who have sacrificed to give glory and honor to our country. He therefore expressed hope that the body would approve his measure which seeks to grant retirement, health care and death benefits to professional athletes since those athletes deserve to be given such recognition by our country;

2. Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (author of HB No. 2094)

- In his sponsorship remarks, he said that this measure will show our athletes that giving honor to our country is a noble cause and, in return, government would help secure their future by providing them with retirement, health care and death benefits;

3. Chairman Renato Unico, Jr.

- a. For this hearing, he requested the body to resolve the disagreeing

provisions of the three measures, as follows:

1. On the Qualified beneficiaries-

Whether to include both amateur and professional athletes as proposed by Cong. Villar or concentrate on the professional athletes as proposed by Reps. Acharon and Sambar.

The Chair noted that: (a) there is a separate law that grants incentives to amateur athletes, (b) during the last Congress only professional athletes were considered as beneficiaries of these measures; and (c) amateur athletes do not win World Titles/Championships.

2. Definition of International Sports-

Whether to include Regional Championships as proposed by Reps. Villar and Sambar;

3. Retirement Age-

Whether the retirement age should be set at 55 years old as proposed by Cong. Acharon or at a lower age of 50 as proposed by Reps. Villar and Sambar;

4. Death benefits-

Whether to adopt the grant of P30 thousand death benefits as proposed by Rep. Acharon;

5. Sources of Funding-

Whether to include the PAGCOR, PCSO, GAB and GAA as sources of funding.

Comments/ Issues/ Recommendations

(1) On the Qualified Beneficiaries

(a) Mr. Juan Ramon Guanzon (Chairman, Games and Amusements Board)

- He expressed the GAB's support on the measure especially on the proposal to give retirement and health care benefits but expressed reservations on the inclusion of amateur athletes like Elma Muros and Lydia de Vega as mentioned by the author of HB No. 38 citing that they are considered amateur athletes and as such are not recognized by the GAB. He mentioned that GAB's jurisdiction covers only the licensing of professional athletes as well as the regulation of professional sports. In reply, Rep. Acharon agreed that only those athletes recognized by the GAB should be considered as qualified beneficiaries of his measures and explained that the mention in his bill of athletes Muros and De Vega was simply to give examples. Although, he believed that both athletes likewise deserve recognition for the honor that they have given to our country;
- In reply to Chairman's Unico's query on the status of professional athletes who played for the Philippine team, Mr. Guanzon said that different sporting organizations have different policies on their participation in international competitions. He mentioned that professional basketball players are allowed by **Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA)** to participate in amateur sports competitions such as Olympics and SEAGAMES but professional boxers are prohibited in their contracts to join the amateur level.

(b) Cong. Aurelio D. Gonzales, Jr.

- Inquired the possibility of including professional basketball players like Chito Loyzaga and Robert Jaworski Sr. who played for the Philippine team as beneficiaries and other athletes who were just runner-ups in international sports competitions because they also fought for the glory of our country. In reply, Mr. Guanzon mentioned that basketball players Loyzaga and Jaworski were still considered amateur athletes when they played for the Philippine team and won in 1969 Asian Championship Games citing that the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) was only established in 1975. When pressed if GAB could include champions way back in the 1960's, Mr. Guanzon said that although he posed no objection on the inclusion of those athletes but he believed that there might be technical problems for their inclusion. Thus, he urged Congress to set some parameters if it decides to include professional athletes who played for amateur sports.

(c) Cong. Enrique M. Cojuangco

- He seconded the recommendation of Cong. Gonzales i.e. to include the runner-ups (not only champions) as well as professional athletes who played

for the amateur games as beneficiaries of these measures. He clarified that Jaworski and his team won the Asian basketball games in 1985, and not in 1969, thereafter the Philippines only ranked either 2nd, 3rd or 4th in basketball. In reply, Rep. Acharon said the measures at hand concentrate only on giving benefits to professional athletes since there is a separate law that grants incentives to amateur athletes; and that the intention of his bill is only to limit incentives to World Champions. Chairman Unico added that another hearing scheduled on November 30, 2010 is set to discuss the measures intended for the incentives of the amateur athletes.

(2) On the Retirement Age

(a) Rep. Pedro Acharon, Jr. explained that he recommended the age of 55 following the retirement age of law enforcers at 56 years old who, presumably, are facing greater danger/risk in performing their duties. However, he expressed no objection if the body sets the retirement at any other age;

(b) Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar, on the other hand, defended his proposal for an earlier retirement age at 50 citing that athletes like professional boxers retire even in their early 30's considering the degree of physical punishment that they have received from playing boxing. Likewise, many of these athletes who suffer from sports-related injuries do not have the means to seek for medical help. Law enforcers, on the other hand, have their own retirement package that will take care of them when they retire but athletes have nothing for their future.

Rep. Lacson-Noel seconded Rep. Sambar's proposal on the retirement age;

(c) Chairman Unico manifested the adoption of Cong. Sambar and Villar's proposal i.e. to set the retirement age at 50 years old.

(3) On the Funding Issues

(a) Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (Atty. Mabel Mamba, Director)

- i. Commended the authors for filing the measures at hand especially Rep. Acharon for recognizing in his bill that PCSO has already an existing program i.e. the Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP) for qualified beneficiaries to avail of;
- ii. She informed the body that any Filipino may avail of the medical assistance through the PCSO's IMAP as long as she/he is qualified to receive the same. She likewise clarified that PCSO has no ceiling on the amount of medical assistance that it may give to a patient as long as the latter is qualified to receive the same and funds are available for the purpose;
- iii. For the hospitalization benefits, she suggested that the bill should not set a maximum limit of P200 thousand since PCSO may, in the discretion of the approving authority, grant a higher amount of medical assistance depending on the patient's needs. In reply, Rep. Acharon explained that he

provided a P200 thousand cap in anticipation of the soaring medical assistance requests from the old-aged retirees. However, following the recommendation of the PCSO, he expressed his willingness to remove the maximum limit in his bill and let the athletes receive all the assistance that they need as long as they comply with the PCSO's requirements for availing the said assistance. He later requested the PCSO to prepare a menu for the qualified athletes in order to simplify the documentary requirements and procedures as well;

- iv. Atty. Mamba posed no objection to Chairman Unico's suggestion of putting up a courtesy lane for the qualified athletes in order to expedite the processing of requirements. Likewise, she was amenable to prepare a menu specifically for professional athletes and requested a staff to coordinate with their office.

(b) Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Dr. Giovanni Roan, Medical Officer VII)

- i. He said that PHILHEALTH has no objections with the proposed measures as the same is consistent with the PHILHEALTH mandate of providing universal health care coverage to all Filipinos;
- ii. To improve the provisions of the bill, he submitted the following recommendations, to wit:
 1. To extend PCSO's IMAP not only to those professional athletes confined/admitted in government run hospitals but also those admitted in private hospitals, as long as they are qualified to avail of the said services. Cong. Sambar posed no objection to said recommendation;
 2. To clarify whether the P200 thousand proposed medical assistance cap is proposed on a yearly basis or per hospitalization; and
 3. To continue GAB's payment for the PHILHEALTH premium of qualified athletes-beneficiaries until they become qualified for its non-paying program. He informed the body that retirement age is normally set at 60 years old and that PHILHEALTH requires a member to pay at least 10 years of premium payment before he/she qualifies for its non-paying program.

(c) Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation (Mr. Henry Reyes, Assistant Vice President)

- Mr. Reyes fully supports the bill but suggested that the retirement benefits should be given to all qualified professional athletes even if they earn above the minimum wage. Rep. Acharon replied that his bill should be construed as a separate retirement package. Thus, professional athletes may continue to hold government/private positions and consequently earn their salaries even beyond 50 since the retirement benefits proposed in this measure is separate and distinct from other mandated retirement packages;

- Mr. Reyes requested the GAB to submit the total number of athletes that would be covered if the law would be applied retroactively. Chairman Unico replied that GAB already submitted a partial list of 20 beneficiaries for the health benefits while only 7 for the retirement benefits;
- Likewise, PAGCOR has no objection on the proposed P30 thousand death benefits.

VI. COMMITTEE ACTION

- Upon the motion of Cong. Sambar, and seconded by Cong. Lacson-Noel, HB No. 38, in consolidation with HB Nos. 1964 and 2094, was approved with amendments.
- Upon motion of Cong. Sambar, and duly seconded, all members present in the meeting were made co-authors of the consolidated measures;
- Chairman Unico instructed the Secretariat to prepare the clean copy of the consolidated bill and transmit the same to the Committee on Appropriations for its consideration.

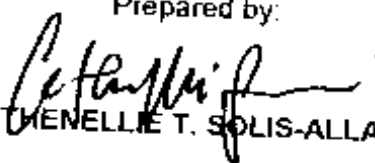
VII. OTHER MATTERS

- For the next hearing, Chairman Unico informed the body that the Committee will meet on November 30, 2010 to discuss the following, to wit:
 - (1) Incentives for amateur athletes (amendatory bills for RA 9064);
 - (2) Funding issues related to the National Sports Development Fund (Section 26 of Ra 6847); and
 - (3) Results of the Asian Games in China.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Cong. Sambar, the Committee adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by:


ESTHENELLIE T. SOLIS-ALLAGA

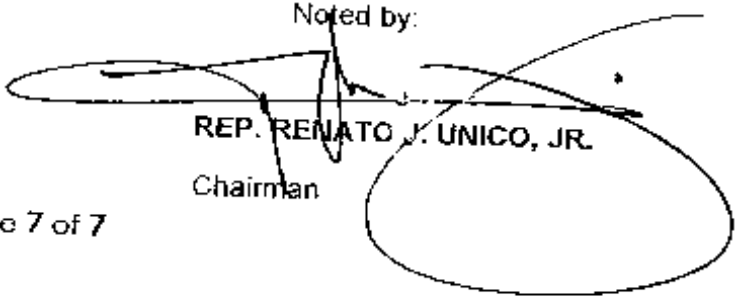
Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II

Certified Correct by:


PERCIE D. MANAGUELOD

Committee Secretary

Noted by:


REP. RENATO J. UNICO, JR.

Chairman



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

HON. JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA

Congressman, 1st District, Cavite
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations

February 8, 2011

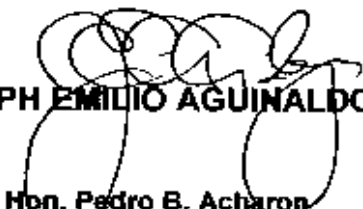
HON. RENATO J. UNICO, JR.

Chairman
Committee on Youth and Sports Development

Dear Chairman Unico:

Please be informed that the Committee on Appropriations in its meeting held today, at Conference Rooms 7 & 8, R.V. Mitra Building, approved to report out without amendment, **House Bill No. 38 in consolidation with House Bill Nos. 1964 and 2094, entitled "AN ACT GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR".**

Very truly yours,


JOSEPH EMILIO AGUINALDO ABAYA *uh*

cc: Hon. Pedro B. Acharon
Hon. Mark A. Villar
Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar