

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5799



Introduced by **HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Professional boxing has been the sport where the Philippines earned the distinction of excellence. Boxers such as Pancho Villa, Flash Elorde, Ceferino Garcia, Luisito Espinosa, Gerry Penalosa and our colleague Congressman Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao have all brought prestige and honor to our country through boxing.

Due to the prestige and financial rewards of being a professional boxer, many Filipinos especially from poor families become professional boxers.

As a contact sport, professional boxing carries the risk of bodily injury, which may result into permanent disability or even death.

Recently, a professional boxer named Karlo Maquinto died six (6) days after a boxing match after suffering from serious head injuries.

After several investigations and inquiries, it was discovered that the present requirements and regulations as implemented by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) for licensing of professional boxers and requirements for boxing matches are inadequate to protect the health of professional boxers.

Hence, this bill is sought to impose additional requirements for licensing of professional boxers as well as requirements before a boxing match will be permitted to be held.

In this regard, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District, Cavite

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AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF PROFESSIONAL BOXERS

SECTION 1. The provisions of this Act shall be implemented by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB), which was created under Executive Order No. 392 Series of 1951.

SEC. 2. Medical Clearance. A professional boxer shall submit to the GAB a medical clearance every six (6) months, which shall not be later than June 31 and December 31 of every year. Such clearance shall be a requirement for the boxer to continue fighting in boxing matches. Medical clearance shall include the following medical results but not limited to CT Scan, X-Ray, ECG, Drug Test, HIV Test and Eye Refraction. The non-submission of this medical clearance to the GAB shall be a ground for the non-issuance or non-renewal of the license of the professional boxer.

SEC. 3. Frequency of fights. The following medical suspensions shall be imposed to professional boxers after boxing matches, whether winning or losing the match:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a.) | Four-round match : | not less than fifteen (15) days; |
| b.) | Six-round match : | not less than twenty (20) days; |
| c.) | Eight, Ten and Twelve-round matches : | not less than thirty (30) days. |

The present medical suspensions by the GAB on a boxer after a knockout loss shall be maintained.

While on medical suspension, the boxer shall be prohibited to participate in a boxing match whether in the Philippines or abroad.

SEC. 4. Insurance. A boxing match shall not be permitted to proceed without an insurance procured by the promoter to cover the expenses in the event of injuries sustained by boxers in the course of the fight.

SEC. 5. Penalties - Any person found guilty of the punishable act herein shall be punishable with imprisonment of *prision correccional* or a fine of at least Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not exceeding Two Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 6. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, presidential issuances, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be held unconstitutional or be declared invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,