

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6617

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 states:

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.

Student athletes generate large revenues for many athletic programs. Alumni and sponsors are more willing to contribute if the cause is for their basketball, volleyball or football team whose games are sometimes televised or hosted by big corporations. Student athletes spend approximately 40 hours per week participating in their respective sports yet they suffer historically low graduation rates. Providing adequate health and safety protection for student athletes can help prevent serious injury and death. Current and former student athletes can be left to pay for medical expenses incurred from injuries suffered while participating in intercollegiate athletics. Institutions of higher education should provide their student athletes with the same due process protection afforded to students who do not participate in athletics.

This bill seeks to protect student athletes. If we are serious about a national sports program, we should start with measures that safeguard the welfare of our youth.


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

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1 AN ACT
2 TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES
3 WHO PARTICIPATE IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

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

4 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Student Athlete Protection Act of
5 2012."

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies and Objectives.* – Pursuant to Article 2, Sec. 17
7 of the Constitution, The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts,
8 culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and
9 promote total human liberation and development.

10 In addition to this, Article 10, Section 19, paragraph 1 provides that the State shall
11 promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions and amateur
12 sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork,
13 and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

1 Towards this end, it is the view of the Legislature that meeting the educational needs
2 of student athletes should be a priority for collegiate athletic programs.

3 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined
4 as follows:

5 (a) "Athletic program" shall mean an intercollegiate athletic program at any higher
6 education institution;

7 (b) "Higher education institution" shall refer to private tertiary educational
8 establishments.

9 (c) "Student athlete" means any college student who participates in an intercollegiate
10 athletic program of an institution of higher education, and includes student athletes who
11 participate in basketball, football or any other intercollegiate sport.

12 SECTION 4. *Continued Scholarship in Case of Injury.* – If an athletic program does
13 not renew an athletic scholarship of a student athlete who suffers an incapacitating injury or
14 illness resulting from his or her participation in the athletic program, and the higher education
15 institution's (HEI) medical staff determines that he or she is medically ineligible to
16 participate in intercollegiate athletics, the HEI shall provide an equivalent scholarship that,
17 combined with the total duration of any previous athletic scholarship or scholarships received
18 by the student athlete, will be provided for a total of up to five academic years or until the
19 student athlete completes his or her undergraduate degree, whichever period is shorter.
20 Additional years may be provided at the discretion of the HEI.

21 If a student athlete takes a temporary leave of absence from a higher education
22 institution, the duration of that leave of absence shall not count against the five-year limit on
23 eligibility for an equivalent scholarship imposed by the first paragraph of this Section.

1 SECTION 5. *Financial and Life Skills Workshop.* – Each athletic program shall
2 conduct a financial and life skills workshop for all of its first-year and third-year student
3 athletes at the beginning of the academic year. This workshop shall include, but not be
4 limited to, information concerning financial aid, debt management, and a recommended
5 budget for full- and partial-scholarship student athletes living on or off campus during the
6 academic year and the summer term based on the current academic year's cost of attendance.
7 The workshop shall also include information on time management skills necessary for
8 success as a student athlete, and academic resources available on campus.

9 SECTION 6. *Additional Requirements for Athletic Programs.* – An athletic program
10 shall adopt and implement guidelines to prevent, assess, and treat sports-related concussions,
11 injuries and dehydration. In addition, an athletic program shall adopt and implement exercise
12 and supervision guidelines for any student athlete identified with potentially life-threatening
13 health conditions who participates in an athletic program.

14 SECTION 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations
15 or part thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
16 repealed or modified accordingly.

17 SECTION 8. Should any provision of this Act be found unconstitutional by a court of
18 law, such provision shall be severed from the remainder of this Act, and such action shall not
19 affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Act.

20 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication
21 in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,