

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

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 887**



Introduced by **ATTY. MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO I**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This measure, the **Philippine Jockeys Retirement Act of 2013**, whose aim is to reduce retirement age of racehorse jockeys from 60 to 55, was originally filed last 14<sup>th</sup> Congress as HB 6511 and was extensively discussed in the Committee on Labor and Employment and was approved on Third and Final Reading on January 19, 2010 in the House of Representatives. During the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress, it was again re-filed as HB 4205, approved by the Committee on Labor and Employment per Committee Report 632 and was approved by the plenary on Third and Final Reading. For lack of material time on the part of the Senate, this measure was not enacted into law.

At present, all racehorse jockeys, who are all members of the New Philippine Jockeys' Association argue that their retirement age pegged at 60 years old by virtue of Republic Act 1161, as amended by Republic 8282 (*Social Security Act of 1997*) is no longer proper as their jobs require a lot of physical exertion. The Philippine Racing Commission (*PHILRACOM*), which is the regulatory body governing the racing industry, has set the retirement age of jockeys at 55 years old, regardless of their mental and physical abilities. Hence, jockeys aged 55-60 are no longer allowed to race competitively and are practically retired but they cannot draw their pension until they reach the age of 60.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING ARTICLE 287 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 442, AS**  
**AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE**  
**PHILIPPINES BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE 287-A REDUCING THE**  
**RETIREMENT AGE OF RACE HORSE JOCKEYS FROM SIXTY (60) TO**  
**FIFTY-FIVE (55).**

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

Section 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as *“The Race Horse Jockeys Retirement Act of 2013.”*

Section 2. **Retirement.** - The Labor Code is hereby amended by adding a new Article 287-A to read as follows:

*“ART. 287-A. Retirement Age for Race Horse Jockeys. – A professional race horse jockey, who is duly licensed by the Philippine Racing Commission (PHILRACOM), shall be compulsorily retired upon reaching the age of fifty-five (55) years, and shall be entitled to all the retirement benefits provided for under Article 287 of this Code.*

*Nothing in this article shall deprive any race horse jockey of the benefits he is entitled to under existing laws, company policies or practices.”*

Section 3. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Social Security System (SSS), the Philippine Racing Commission (PHILRACOM) and the New Philippine Jockeys' Association, Inc. (TNPJAI) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

Section 4. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*