

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



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3521

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to make boxing icon Manny Pacquiao exempted from individual income tax for life.

Manny Pacquiao is publicly considered as the People's Champ in boxing history. His popularity is overwhelming and every Filipino loves him so dearly because he has placed the Philippines in the boxing map of the world. In every aspect of the sport, he is electrifying, exciting and a phenomenon that no Filipino boxer has ever achieved before. He is the inspiration of millions of Filipinos.

Emmanuel Dapidran Pacquiao was born on December 17, 1978, to parents Dionesia Dapidran-Pacquiao and Rosalio Pacquiao. When he was a teenager, Pacquiao left his family and boarded a ship to Manila, in hopes of training as a boxer and launching a career in the sport. Not long after, in January of 1995, his goals gained some traction; at age 16, he stepped into the ring for his first professional bout, against Edmund Ignacio. Pacquiao won the fight in four rounds, in a unanimous decision. The victory propelled him into a successful boxing run that would encompass the better part of two decades. He is a gifted athlete who possesses knockout power in his punch, lightning fast speed, outstanding footwork and dexterity and a solid chin. A superhuman defined by a multitude of passions, his numbers continued to rack up when he dismantled top opponents like Oscar dela Hoya, Erik Morales, Juan Manuel Marquez, Antonio Barrera, Miguel Cotto, Ricky Hatton, Lehlohonolo Ledwaba, Oscar Larios, Brandon Rios and other big names in the boxing world.

He has achieved greatness with his **55 Wins** (38 knockouts, 17 decisions), **5 Losses** (3 knockouts, 2 decisions), **2 Draws** professional record. For a long time, Manny Pacquiao was the consensus pound-for-pound king. He is the first and only eight-division world champion, in which he has won ten world titles, as well as the first to win the lineal championship in four different weight classes. Along with the many title defenses he has amassed, the People's Champ also collected his share of outside the ring honors, to wit: 2000–2009 **Boxing Writers Association of America Fighter of the Decade**; 2000–2009 HBO Fighter of the Decade; 2001–2010 **World Boxing Council Boxer of the Decade**; 2001–2010 **World Boxing Organization Best Pound-for-Pound Fighter of the Decade**; 2006, 2008 and 2009 **Boxing Writers Association of America's Fighter of the Year**; 2006, 2008 and 2009 ESPN Fighter of the Year; 2006, 2008 and 2009 *The Ring* **Fighter of the Year**; 2008 Sports Illustrated Boxer of the Year; 2008 Yahoo! Sports Fighter of the Year; 2008 and 2009 ESPN Star's Champion of Champions; 2008 and 2009 **World Boxing Council Boxer of the Year**; 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 *The Ring* No.1 Pound-for-Pound; 2009 Ask Men Most Influential Men (ranked 24th); 2009 ESPN Knockout of the Year (*in Round 2 against Ricky Hatton*); 2009 and 2011 **ESPY Awards Best Fighter**; 2009 Forbes Magazine World's Highest-Paid Athletes (ranked 6th); 2009 Sports Illustrated Fighter of the Year; 2009 TIME 100 Most Influential People (Heroes and Icons Category); 2009, 2010 and 2012 Forbes Magazine Celebrity 100 (The World's Most Powerful Celebrity) (ranked 57th, 55th and 33rd); 2010 Bleacher Report Most Exciting Athletes of All Time (ranked 85th); 2010 **World Boxing Organization Fighter of the Year**; 2010 Yahoo! Sports Boxing's Most Influential (ranked 25th); 2000–09 **Philippine Sportswriters Association Athlete of the Decade**; 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2008 PSA Sportsman of the Year; 2003 Presidential Medal of Merit; 2003 and 2010 Congressional Medal of Achievement / Distinction / Honor; 2006 Order of Lakandula with the rank of "Champion for Life" (*Kampeon Habambuhay*); 2008 Philippine Legion of Honor with the rank of "Officer" (*Pinuno*); 2008 University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) Honorary Award for Sports Excellence; 2009 Order of Sikatuna with the rank of *Datu* (Grand Cross with Gold Distinction); 2011 Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Memorial "Quintessential Athlete" Award, to name a few.

His generosity and desire to help that extends even up to the use of his hard-earned money is noteworthy. He is an exemplar of humility, a refreshing soul in the Philippines. Every Pacquiao fight brings the nation to a halt, with crowds swarming multi-purpose courts that provides live coverage of the event while the rest are glued to television or radio stations. PNP reports that no crime incident occurs during this period. Watch any post-match interview with Pacman and the first words that come out of his mouth are always in praise of his opponent, and even during matches, we can not think of a single time Pacquiao went out of his way to embarrass or belittle anyone. As a matter of fact, the only emotion we have ever really seen from him are the tears that seem to come at the end of every fight.

Some of those tears are from the thrill of victory and others are the agony of defeat. He never seemed to revel in fame. He is remarkably the most deserving of attention that the brazen celebrity exploits that so often steal our focus in every fight he engages in. Technique can be taught, skill can be refined but there are couple of things Pacquiao possesses: Humility, Charisma and Power. These are part of his stock in trade and the sky appeared the limit. These are the prime reasons why he is the icon of every Filipino soul. This is the reason why he is well-loved by the people. These are things that distinguish him as the great champion—from others. In the face of defeat, he exemplifies the Filipino spirit's ability to function in the face of setbacks and you can see the discipline, perseverance, and commitment that went into the hero's success. Pacquiao's impeccable footwork, speed and quick jabs has kept boxing fans on their feet. And his endearing smile, charm and chiseled physique has only helped to boost his public appeal.

This might be the first time in the Philippines that this rare privilege is conferred on an individual taxpayer, but let us take a glimpse at Colombia that bestowed a similar privilege to one of its outstanding national, Luz Marina Zuluaga, who won the Miss Universe crown in 1958. The Colombian government even built her a mansion, printed postal stamps in her honor, declared a national holiday in her name and proclaimed her as "TAX EXEMPT FOR LIFE". Ms. Zuluaga of Colombia won only once in the said pageant and yet she received honors and privileges from her country. Manny Pacquiao has brought more countless honor and pride to the Filipino people.

This measure granting a lifetime individual income tax exemption to a Filipino who has gained outstanding international recognition in his field of endeavor will not only be a fitting expression of the nation's gratitude to countrymen like Manny Pacquiao for his achievements and in appreciation of the honor and inspiration he has been bringing to the Filipino people.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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

AN ACT
CONFERRING LIFE-TIME INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX EXEMPTION
TO BOXING ICON EMMANUEL DAPIDRAN PACQUIAO ALSO
KNOWN AS "MANNY PACQUIAO"

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 "*The Pacquiao Act of 2013.*"

Section 2. Income Tax-meaning -- Income Tax is a tax on a person's income, emoluments, profits arising from property, practice of profession, conduct of trade or business or on the pertinent items of gross income specified in the Tax Code of 1997 (Tax Code), as amended, less the deductions and/or personal and additional exemptions, if any, authorized for such types of income, by the Tax Code, as amended, or other special laws.

Section 3. Life-time Income Tax Exemption/Privilege -- The State shall confer life-time individual income tax exemption to boxing icon Emmanuel Dapidran Pacquiao also known as "Manny Pacquiao" who has given outstanding honor and pride to the Filipino people.

Section 4. Status of Payments of Income Tax Already Made to the Bureau of Internal Revenue. – All payments for the income tax accrued for the past years that have already been paid and remitted to the government shall form part of the State coffers and shall no longer be reimbursed to Manny Pacquiao.

All other incurred income tax liabilities for the previous years shall now be obliterated by the operation of this Act.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. – The provisions of Title II of Republic Act No. 8424 (*The Tax Reform Act of 1997*), regulations, or other issuance or any part thereof inconsistent with the provision of the Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. All other laws, rules and regulations that may be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 6. Separability Clause. – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is adjudged invalid, all its other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force.

Section 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,