

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3822



Introduced by **REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant benefits for retirement, health care and death to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles, either in international professional sports competitions or in other prestigious international championships.

The Philippines is blessed to have a long list of world champions in the likes of Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros, Paeng Nepomuceno and boxing greats Luisito Espinosa, Rolando Navarette, Manny Pacquiao and so on. Unfortunately, not all of them live better lives after their respective reigns.

Despite the honor and glory they have brought to the country during their heydays, it is sad to note that some of our finest athletes end up with nothing upon retirement. After public adulations and exultations die down, they return to obscurity and worse not having enough resources to fend for themselves and for their families. These athletes surely deserve more than just a pat on the back for the blood, sweat and tears they invested.

As an expression of collective gratitude, we find it appropriate to accord our prized athletes with practical benefits to sail them through life once their careers are over. The benefits enumerated in this bill might seem modest compared to the sacrifices and hardships they go through just to be able to do us proud. Nonetheless, it is a good jump off point in our efforts to look after the welfare of our professional athletes. They have done their share. It is about time we do ours.

This bill was passed in the 15th Congress but was vetoed by the President on the grounds of funding constraints and provision on trust fund which was contained in the Senate version. This version, however, does not have said provision on trust fund. Further, I believe that we can always come up with an acceptable compromise that is beneficial to all parties.

In view of the foregoing reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3822

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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:

SECTION 1. Title.- This Act shall be known as the " Professional Filipino Athletes Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2013".

SEC.2. Declaration of Policy.- The State shall provide 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 world championship games, in both individual or team events, in recognition of the glory and honor they bestowed to their country.

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

(a) *Professional Filipino Athletes* shall refer to athletes who are Filipino citizens and 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 contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or team owner and licensed by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB);

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) For Team Events – A lifetime monthly pension of at least Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00) for each team member: *Provided*, That for athletes who win in both individual and team events, the retirement benefits for individual events shall apply.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,