

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7068



Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. (Sec. 13, Art. II) In the same vein, the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. (Sec. 19, Art. XIV)

According to a study, children's and adolescents' active participation in sports positively impacts their physical, physiological, and social development. First, physical activity breaks unhealthy lifestyle and promotes energy expenditure.¹ Second, sports aids in the improvement of gross motor skills. It also encourages better academic performance, decreased risk of heart disease and other diseases, and less incidence of psychological dysfunction. The youth will also be less inclined to engage in high-risk health related behaviors, such as cigarette smoking and illegal drug abuse.

For this reason, this bill seeks the institutionalization of sports varsity teams in elementary and secondary schools in the Philippines. Student-athletes will be given proper and supervised training. High quality sports equipment and facilities will be readily available. Teacher-coaches will be properly compensated. Intra-school cooperation and camaraderie will be promoted. Through a registry system, student-athletes will also be given the opportunity to pursue a future in sports in the collegiate level. More importantly, the talents and skills of the Filipino youth will be showcased.

A similar version of this commendable bill was first filed in the 17th Congress by Rep. Alfred D. Vargas, among others, and the present proponent is acknowledging the wisdom and hard work of his predecessors.

¹ Merkel, Donna. "Youth sport: positive and negative impact on young athletes". *Open Access Journal of Sports Medicine*, 2013; 4: 151-160. <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3871410/>>

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Violago', written in a cursive style.

JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SPORTS VARSITY
TEAMS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Basic Education Sports Varsity Team Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

To this end, the State shall provide opportunities for optimal and long-term development of Filipino athletes by expanding the base of student athletes, increasing the time and frequency for their early exposure, training and competition through the institutionalization of sports varsity teams in the basic education cycle.

SECTION 3. *Institutionalization of Sports Varsity Teams in Basic Education.* – To ensure the optimal and long-term development of Filipino athletes, elementary and secondary schools, both public and private, shall institutionalize sports varsity teams.

There shall at least be a varsity team for athletics for every school as athletics forms the base for other sports. The school shall expand the number of sport events to cover gradually according to the school's after-school sports program, interests of students, coaches, and the community.

Sports events that shall be considered in the establishment of varsity teams in elementary and secondary levels shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Archery

- b) Arnis
- c) Badminton
- d) Baseball
- e) Basketball
- f) Boxing
- g) Chess
- h) Football
- i) Gymnastics
- j) Sepak Takraw
- k) Soft Ball
- l) Swimming
- m) Table Tennis
- n) Taekwondo
- o) Tennis
- p) Volleyball
- q) Billiards
- r) Futsal
- s) Wrestling
- t) Wushu
- u) Aerobics Gymnastics
- v) Dance Sports
- w) Pencak Silat
- x) Basketball 3x3

The establishment of varsity teams in traditional and indigenous games, dances, and sports shall also be encouraged.

SECTION 4. *Organization of Sports Varsity Teams.* – The organization of sports varsity teams shall consider the following factors:

- a) Presence of competent and committed teacher-coaches;
- b) Availability of sufficient facilities and equipment;
- c) Administrative and financial support; and
- d) Support of the community.

SECTION 5. *Identification of Athletes.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall provide a sports varsity selection and admission system.

All K-12 learners who are officially enrolled in Elementary, Junior High School, Senior High School, Open High School, and Alternative Learning Systems, especially those who participate in the after-school sports program (ASSP) and who can meet the following requirements can join their school's sports varsity teams:

- a) Must have passed the physical fitness tests and skill tests;
- b) With parental consent; and
- c) In good academic standing.

SECTION 6. *Selection and Deployment of Competent Coaches.* – It shall be the responsibility of the school administration to secure the services of competent coaches. Teachers, including sports coordinator, trained in sports coaching are the priority in the selection of coaches.

Former outstanding athletes from among the parents or community residents may be tapped to serve as volunteer coaches in the sports where they excel and gained national or international recognition. Likewise, students and graduates of the Sports Track in the Senior High School (SHS) shall be tapped to provide assistance in the training of Sports Varsity Teams.

The Sports Varsity Teams may also serve as a venue for the practicum and/or immersion of students in the Sports Track.

SECTION 7. *Recognition and Training of Coaches.* – DepEd shall create a mechanism to provide incentives and recognition to volunteer coaches.

The DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission, National Sports Associations, Philippine Olympic Committee, and the private sector shall develop programs to train varsity coaches to become certified trainers based on international standards.

SECTION 8. *Time and Frequency of Training.* – The implementing school has the discretion to determine the time and frequency of training of the varsity teams, provided that the trainings are conducted after the regular class hours and shall not interfere with instructionally-relevant activities pursuant to engaging students in learning the lessons of the curriculum.

SECTION 9. *More Competition.* – Aside for the calendar of regular sports competitions conducted by the DepEd, private and public schools shall organize varsity match with neighboring schools. A league may be composed of public and private schools.

Furthermore, elementary and secondary school may partner with existing stadiums and sports centers in the community to host varsity matches.

SECTION 10. *Equipment for Sports Varsity.* – It shall be the responsibility of the school administration to secure the equipment necessary to sustain the training of sports varsity teams. Such equipment may be sourced from regular budget and extra-budgetary means such as donations from the community.

The DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission, shall be responsible for maintaining a databank of standard facilities and equipment, their technical specifications, suppliers, and indicative prices for every sport covered in international competitions.

SECTION 11. *Performance Profiling of Student Athletes.* – There shall be a school-based profiling of student-athletes. In case of a student athlete's transfer to another

school, it is the responsibility of the former coaches to transmit the student's athletic profile to the new school to ensure proper recognition and continuous training and development. The student athlete's profile shall show results of previous competitions and improvements in clocking in the case of measurable sports.

All elementary and secondary schools shall register and update their student athlete's profile from time to time.

SECTION 12. *Registry of Student Athletes.* – The DepEd shall maintain a registry of student athletes and shall make this accessible to colleges and universities, Philippine Sports Commission, and other private sports groups and organizations and shall be used solely for identification of potential inclusion to varsity teams in college and universities, or in the case of the Philippine Sports Commission, selection of national athletes who can represent the Philippines in international sporting events.

SECTION 13. *Incentives.* – Recognitions and incentives shall be awarded to school coaches and school heads for their support to the organization and registration of their school varsity teams.

Teachers-coaches shall be given service credits and/or additional compensation or overtime pay for work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in accordance with the law.

SECTION 14. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the Department of Education's budget in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Education and the Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission, upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed for the implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,