

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. **9945**



Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution highlights sports as a tool for the State to foster patriotism and nationalism among its citizens, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Sports is an innate part of the Filipino culture where Filipino spectators take pride of fellow Filipino athletes who represent the country in international competitions.

As a proactive supporter and listener to the various teams in different fields of sports in the country, this Representation has become a first-hand witness of the sacrifices and setbacks that the country's athletes have experienced in competing for any sports competition. In fact, in the Lone District of Benguet, this Representation alone has witnessed the journey of the province's athletes who perseveringly and painstakingly rose above all challenges just to set foot in the international arena. It is no different from the case of the majority, if not all, of the local Filipino athletes.

A huge portion of them, despite competing internationally, have prioritized earning money to fend for their families. Since it is an inherent Filipino value to one's family, most of the local Filipino athletes' tendencies are to work tirelessly to save enough for their families' future. As a result, the potential of most the country's athletes is redirected on other things, mostly on their jobs and source of livelihood, and not on trainings alone out of necessity. Trainings only come secondary on their plate due to their responsibility to their families, unlike other full-time international athletes who are training 24/7.

Therefore, it is high time that we reduce the said burden on the athletes' shoulders and grant them the full opportunity to fulfill their dreams for their selves, their families, and the country. It is also worth-noting that sports plays a vital role in the promotion of our country in the global landscape. The country's international athletes

do not only bring honor and glory to the country, but as well as innumerable positive implications of being a *Pinoy Pride* such as the increase in the country's tourism and investments, resulting to economic vibrance in multiple sectors.

Tantamount to the honor and glory that Professional Filipino Athletes have brought to the country are the multitude of sweats and sacrifices just to compete in any international sports competition. Thus, in recognition of the said sacrifices and in honor of the prestige in representing the country in the international arena, this bill seeks to grant full College scholarship to the children of professional Filipino athletes who participated in any international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious international games, irrespective of winning any titles.

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



HON. ERIC GO YAP

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AN ACT
GRANTING FULL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TO CHILDREN OF
PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO COMPETED IN
INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER
EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL GAMES AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Tertiary Scholarship Grant to Children of Professional Filipino Athletes Act of 2024.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall give priority to sports in order for the citizens to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Thus, the State shall provide necessary benefits, which include but may not be limited to, health, retirement, death, and educational benefits, to professional Filipino athletes who competed or shall compete in international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world championship games, in both individual or team events, in honor of the pride and glory they have brought to the country.

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

- a. ***Board*** - shall refer to the Games and Amusement Board (GAB);
- b. ***Filipino Athlete*** - shall refer to professional athletes who are citizens of the Philippines, except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of R.A. No. 9225 otherwise known as the “Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003”;

- c. *International Professional Sports Competitions* - shall refer to international bodies that are reorganized, accredited and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or memorandum of understanding with the Board;
- d. *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 Board;
- e. *Other Equally Prestigious International Games* - shall refer to other international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or stature as International Professional Sports Competitions and are recognized as such by the Board;
- f. *Primary Beneficiaries* - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the legitimate spouse and legitimate or illegitimate children of the professional athlete;
- g. *Professional Athlete* - shall refer to any natural person who is paid a sum of money or other equivalent 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 a member of a team, under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/ operator or team owner and licensed by the Board;
- h. *Professional Sports* - shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest, bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money or other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which are accredited and/or recognized by the Board; and
- i. *Tertiary education* - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to a level of education pursued beyond high school considered as undergraduate credential.

SEC. 4. Educational Benefits to Primary Beneficiaries or Children. Professional Filipino Athletes, as defined under this Act, who competed in international professional sports competitions and other equally prestigious international games shall be qualified to receive the following educational benefits for their chosen primary beneficiaries or children:

- a. Free tuition and exemption from other fees upon admission to state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs) in the Philippines pursuant to Republic Act 10932 or *The Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act*; and
- b. An educational allowance amounting to Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00) per academic year for the whole duration of the beneficiary or

child's Tertiary education. *Provided*, That the primary beneficiary or child shall be officially enrolled in any of the country's state university. *Provided further*, That the Professional Filipino Athlete has not received, is not receiving, or will not receive any financial incentive from the government which cumulative amount is more than Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) for a period five (5) years prior the enrollment of the primary beneficiary or child in Tertiary education; has no declared liabilities; and has not been convicted of any crimes involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 5. *Claiming of Educational Benefits Upon Death of Professional Filipino Athlete.* Upon the death of a Professional Filipino Athlete before the primary beneficiaries or children become qualified for Tertiary Education, the primary beneficiaries or children shall still be entitled to the educational benefits or scholarship grant upon their official enrollment in Tertiary Education programs of any of the country's state university, as stipulated in this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* The Chairman of the Board 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. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board within ninety (90) days, after the effectivity of this Act, through a technical working committee, and in consultation with the sectors concerned, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Act: *Provided, however*, That copies of the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to the Committee on Games and Amusement of both Houses of Congress. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 8. *Reportorial Requirements.* – The Board shall submit an annual report of the implementation of this Act to the relevant committees of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the law or other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *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. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,