Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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19th CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10789

Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne Hernandez
Lone District of Calamba, Laguna

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has a proud tradition of supporting its national athletes and coaches through various legislative measures, most notably Republic Act No. 10699, which expanded the coverage of incentives for national athletes and coaches. This law, however, while progressive, has not fully addressed the unique challenges and circumstances faced by our Paralympic athletes, who continue to bring honor and pride to our country on the international stage.

Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10699 defines Athletes with disabilities which shall refer to persons with disabilities, as defined under Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Disabled Persons", as amended, who are Filipino citizens, recognized and accredited by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the National Paralympic Committee of the Philippines (NPC PHIL), and who have represented the country in international sports competitions.

The same section defined "National Athletes" to include persons with disabilities who are Filipino citizens, members of the national training pool, and recognized

and accredited by the National Paralympic Committee of the Philippines (NPC PHIL) and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). These athletes have represented the country in international sports competitions that are often at the same level of difficulty—or even more challenging—due to their disabilities.

Furthermore, Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Republic Act No. 10699 provide the same or equal benefits to all national athletes, including athletes with disabilities. Therefore, there is no justification for Section 8 of Republic Act No. 10699, which provides Cash Incentives for National Athletes, to stipulate that paralympic athletes or athletes with disabilities receive 50% less than other athletes who compete in the Olympic Games, Asian Games, and SEA Games.

Given this context, there is no reason why the incentives awarded to Paralympic athletes should be significantly less than those provided to their able-bodied counterparts. Paralympic athletes demonstrate extraordinary resilience, skill, and determination, overcoming substantial physical challenges to achieve excellence in their sports. It is only just and fitting that the incentives and benefits granted to them reflect the same level of support and recognition as those provided to other national athletes.

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10699 by adjusting the incentives and benefits for Paralympic athletes, ensuring they receive fair and equitable treatment under the law. By closing this gap, we move towards a more inclusive Philippines, one that truly values and celebrates the contributions of all its athletes, regardless of physical ability.

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

CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ

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Lone District of Calamba, Laguna

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10699, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED NATIONAL ATHLETES AND COACHES INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS ACT," ADJUSTING THE CASH INCENTIVES FOR PARALYMPIC ATHLETES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. For this Act, Section 8 of Republic Act 10699 is amended as follows:

"SECTION 8. *Cash Incentives for Athletes.* — National athletes and other athletes who are not officially or currently members of the national training pool but who have otherwise represented the country in international sports competitions, and who win gold, silver, and bronze medals in international sports competitions shall be entitled to cash incentives in the following amounts:

a. Individual Events

1. For Gold Medalists:

i. Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) and an Olympic Gold Medal of Valor to be issued by the PSC for Summer Olympic, [and] Winter Olympic Games **AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**;

ii. Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) and an Olympic Gold Medal of Valor to be issued by the PSC for Youth Olympic Games [and Paralympic Games];

iii. Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00) for Asian Games, Asian Winter Games, [and] Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games**, ASIAN PARA GAMES**;

iv. One million pesos (PI,000,000.00) for [Asian Para Games and] World-level competitions held at least every two years with at least forty-five (45) countries participating;

v. Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) for Asian Beach Games, and Asian-level competitions held at least every two (2) years with at least twenty-five (25) countries participating, and qualifying competitions for World-level and Asian-level games;

vi. Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) for SEA Games[;] and **ASEAN PARA GAMES**.

[vii. One hundred fifty thousand pesos (P150,000.00) for ASEAN Para Games.]

2. For Silver Medalists:

i. Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) for Summer Olympic**,** [and] Winter Olympic Games **AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**;

ii. Two million five hundred thousand pesos (P2,500,000.00) for Youth Olympic Games [and Paralympic Games];

iii. One million pesos (PI,000,000.00) for Asian Games, Asian Winter Games, [and] Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games **AND ASIAN PARA GAMES**;

iv. Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) for [Asian Para Games and] World-level competitions held at least every two (2) years with at least forty-five (45) countries participating;

v. Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) for Asian Beach Games, and Asian-level competitions held at least every two (2) years with at least twenty-five (25) countries participating, and qualifying competitions for World-level and Asian-level games;

vi. One hundred fifty thousand pesos (P150,000.00) for SEA Games[;] **AND ASEAN PARA GAMES.**

[vii. Seventy-five thousand pesos (P75,000.00) for ASEAN Para Games]

3. For Bronze Medalists:

i. Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00) for Summer Olympic**,** [and] Winter Olympic Games **AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**;

ii. One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) for Youth Olympic Games [and Paralympic Games];

iii. Four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00) for Asian Games, Asian Winter Games, [and] Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games **AND ASIAN PARA GAMES**;

iv. Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for [Asian Para Games and] World-level competitions held at least every two (2) years with at least forty-five (45) countries participating;

v. One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) for Asian Beach Games, and Asian-level competitions held at least every two (2) years with at least twenty-five (25) countries participating and qualifying competitions for World-level and Asian-level games;

vi. Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000.00) for SEA Games **AND ASEAN PARA GAMES.[;]** and]

[vii. Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00) for ASEAN Para Games.]

SECTION 2. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*** **-** The PSC, in consultation with the POC, the NPC PHIL, the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education (DepED), the CHED, the TESDA, the Department of Finance (DOF), the BIR, the PAGCOR, the PHILHEALTH, among others, and other concerned agencies shall promulgate and issue the IRR within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act: Provided, That the failure of the PSC to promulgate the rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

SECTION 3. ***Monitoring and Reportorial Requirements.*** – The PSC shall submit a report on the benefits, privileges and incentives granted under this Act to national athletes and coaches, to the DOF, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the PAGCOR, the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports, and the House of Representatives Committee on Youth and Sports Development for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of this Act. The submission shall not be later than three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act and every three (3) years thereafter.

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

SECTION 5. ***Separability Clause.*** — If any provision or part hereof is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. ***Effectivity Clause.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,