

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3236**



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Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Sports play a crucial role in the holistic development of students and youth by improving their physical health, mental and emotional well-being, socialization skills, and self-discipline. Furthermore, sports contribute to social cohesion and help instill a sense of camaraderie within communities.

Recognizing the indispensable role of sports in the country, particularly for students and youth, Republic Act No. 5708 was enacted in 1969 to promote and finance an integrated physical education and sports development program in schools. In 2020, RA No. 11470 was passed, establishing the National Academy of Sports, which provides a specialized educational program with a strong focus on athletics. Beyond schools, recreation and sports clubs, associations, and organizations also serve as platforms for promoting sports in communities and identifying and nurturing promising athletes.

In an interview, the country's first Olympic gold medalist, Hidilyn Diaz, shared how she used makeshift barbells made from ipil-ipil wood fitted with mag wheels or poured concrete in her early weightlifting years. She also sold vegetables and fish and washed jeepneys to earn extra money to travel to a gym 15 kilometers from her home. This story, which reflects a reality still faced by many Filipino athletes today, demonstrates not only the strong potential of our athletes but also the pressing need for greater government support. If we can provide the necessary financial assistance and improve access to training facilities and sports infrastructure, we can develop more world-class athletes capable of excelling in international competitions, including the Olympics.<sup>1</sup>

Section 19 (1), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that "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." In fulfillment of this constitutional mandate and recognition of the significant role of local sports programs and associations in the country, this bill seeks to:

- Mandate the Philippine Sports Commission to manage and administer three funds that will be used to assist young athletes, support local sports clubs, and improve sports facilities in the country, among others.
- Lay down the eligibility criteria and conditions for young athletes who wish to avail themselves of a sports voucher.

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<sup>1</sup> Araullo, A. (2021). *Anatomy of Philippines' first Olympic gold medal*. <https://pcij.org/2021/10/31/anatomy-of-philippines-first-olympic-gold-medal/>

- Identify the eligibility criteria for sports voucher providers.

This bill was passed on third reading during the 19th Congress and transmitted to the Senate.

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

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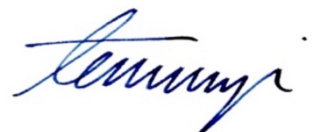
**HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE**

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**HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE**

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**HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a cursive style with a large, flowing 'T' and a long, sweeping tail.

**HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3236**

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Introduced by HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO  
RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, AND  
HON. TERRY L. RIDON

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL SPORTS PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP YOUNG  
ATHLETES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the Constitution provides that 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.

Pursuant to the aforementioned policy, the State shall appropriate funds for the upgrade of sports facilities and extend financial assistance in the form of sports vouchers to mitigate the cost of participation in a sports club, recreation club, sports association, or sports organization of their choice: *Provided*, That the sports club, recreation club, sports association, or sports organization is duly accredited or recognized by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

**SECTION 2. Program Funds.** – To further promote sports and its benefits among the youth, the PSC shall allocate adequate resources to financially support the affiliation of young athletes, including those with disabilities, who cannot afford to join any local sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization by reason of financial constraints. For this purpose, the PSC shall manage and administer three (3) separate funds, as follows:

- (a) **Get Started Fund.** – The fund shall be used to assist young athletes, including those with disabilities, with a discount voucher of up to three thousand pesos (P3,000.00) annually to help pay for their membership, registration, participation, training, or general fees, including the purchase of sports equipment and uniforms. The vouchers can be redeemed at any sports club, recreation club, sports association or organization that is duly accredited or recognized by the PSC and have facilities and activities which can provide the proper, well-equipped, safe, healthy, comfortable, and accessible venue, and opportunities for training and competition: *Provided*, That the voucher providers are registered with the program;
- (b) **Get Going Fund.** – The fund shall be used to support local sports clubs, recreation clubs, sports associations, and sports organizations with funding of up to fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) annually for the sustainability of existing projects and programs that promote grassroots sports development; and

- (c) **Get Playing Fund.** – The fund shall provide up to five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) annually in order to assist local sports clubs, recreation clubs, sports associations, and sports organizations in improving sports facilities and encourage more young athletes to become actively involved in the sports activity of their choice.

**SECTION 3. Eligibility Criteria.** – To avail of the sports voucher, the young athlete must be:

- (a) Under the age of eighteen (18) and is actively engaged in any sports;
- (b) A member of any local sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization duly accredited or recognized by the PSC; and
- (c) A resident in the locality where the sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization is located.

**SECTION 4. Conditions for the Use of the Voucher.** – The use of the sports voucher shall be governed by the following terms and conditions:

- (a) It shall not be redeemable for cash;
- (b) It is non-transferrable to any person except to another PSC-accredited or recognized local sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization: Provided, That the transfer can be done only once a year: Provided, further, That the transfer must be applied prior to the actual use and enjoyment of the sports facilities;
- (c) It cannot be reused once redeemed by any PSC-accredited or recognized local sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization; and
- (d) Only one (1) voucher shall be payable to an eligible athlete per calendar year.

**SECTION 5. Sports Vouchers Providers.** – To be eligible under the program, the sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization must be affiliated with a National Sports Association, duly recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the PSC.

**SECTION 6. Appropriations.** – The initial amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PSC. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The PSC shall, in consultation with various national sports associations, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

**SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

**SECTION 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,