

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6332



Introduced by Representative Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Competing in the Olympics is the pinnacle of every Filipino athlete's aspirations. To qualify alone is a monumental feat; to win is an honor that brings immense pride to the nation.

This dream was realized when our first-ever Olympic gold medalist, Hidilyn Diaz, triumphed in the women's 55-kilogram weightlifting category, defeating the reigning world record holder by a single kilogram. More recently, Carlos Yulo made history as well, capturing two (2) gold medals at the Paris Olympics, further elevating the Philippines' stature on the world stage. Our Paralympians, likewise, continue to bring honor and inspiration to the nation through their exceptional performances despite tremendous physical and personal challenges.

Yet despite these triumphs, many of our Olympians and Paralympians face difficulties long after the applause has faded. Their experiences reveal a persistent gap in the support extended to athletes who have carried the Filipino flag onto the world's most prestigious sporting stage. After years of dedication and service to the nation, numerous Olympians continue to struggle with medical expenses, employment insecurity, or the absence of stable financial support.

While the government, through Republic Act No. 10699 or the *National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act*, grants cash incentives and retirement benefits to athletes who win medals in international competitions, and provides healthcare and death benefits to those who are members of the national training pool, these benefits remain limited only to medalists or current national training pool members. Consequently, Olympians and Paralympians who valiantly represented the country but did not secure podium finishes are left without long-term financial, medical, or welfare support—despite having made the same sacrifices and contributions to national pride.

The harsh reality of this gap was further highlighted by the passing of Lydia de Vega, Asia's Sprint Queen, on August 10, 2022, after a courageous battle with cancer. Reports indicated that her family had to seek financial assistance to cover her mounting medical expenses—an unfortunate reminder of the vulnerability faced by our sporting heroes in times of need.

These predicaments underscore the urgent necessity for a comprehensive national program that grants retirement benefits, healthcare assistance, and death benefits to former Filipino

Olympians and Paralympians—whether or not they won medals. Every athlete who has represented the Philippines at the Olympics deserves lasting recognition and institutional support for the honor and prestige they have brought to the country.

This bill seeks to address these long-standing gaps by ensuring that all Filipino Olympians receive the dignity, security, and care befitting their sacrifices and achievements. It establishes structured retirement benefits, sustained healthcare coverage, and appropriate death benefits to support them and their families.

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



REP. FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III
Representative, Isabela 5th District

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AN ACT
GRANTING HEALTH CARE, RETIREMENT, DEATH AND OTHER BENEFITS TO
RETIRED FILIPINO OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS 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 “*Filipino Olympians and Paralympians Health Care, Retirement and Death Benefits Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall promote excellence in, and through sports, by providing for the welfare of national athletes not only for those currently competing but also for retired Olympians and Paralympians who have dedicated the prime of their lives by bringing honor, recognition and pride to the country.

It is likewise the declared policy of the State to promote sports to foster patriotism and nationalism and to inculcate among the youth the Olympic values and spirit of excellence, respect, camaraderie, solidarity, and fair play.

Pursuant thereto, it is incumbent upon the State to recognize the heroic efforts and sacrifices of our retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians by expanding the grant of health care, retirement, death, discount privileges, and other benefits to retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians.

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

(a) Filipino Olympians and Paralympians refer to athletes who:

1. Are Filipino citizens as defined by the 1987 Constitution, and
 2. Have represented the Philippines in the Summer or Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- (b) Olympians refer to athletes who have competed at the Summer or Winter Olympics and who have been bestowed the Title by the World Olympians Association;
- (c) Retired Filipino Olympian and Paralympian refer to a Filipino Olympian and Paralympian who is no longer a national athlete or a member of the national training pool as defined under Republic Act No. 10699, otherwise known as the "*National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act*" and who has ceased participating and no longer intends to participate in any local or international sports competition.

SEC. 4. *Health Care Benefits.* – Retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians, regardless of age, shall be automatically covered by the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) provided by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH), as indirect contributors, as such, their premium contributions shall be subsidized by the national government.

Upon reaching the age of fifty (50), the retired Filipino Olympian and Paralympian shall be an honorary member of the program, subject to existing PHILHEALTH rules and regulations, and without prejudice to the benefits afforded to senior citizens.

In case of hospitalization of the Retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians 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 the 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.

Any retired Filipino Olympian and Paralympian shall be treated, free of charge, in any government, government-owned-and controlled or government instrumentality or local government health facility, without prejudice to certain charges for medicines, medical procedures, and other fees that may apply in accordance with the policies of these facilities.

The benefits extended under this Section shall be exclusively enjoyed by the retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians and shall not be transferrable to any person.

SEC. 5. Retirement Benefits. – Retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians shall, upon reaching the age of fifty (50), receive a non-transferrable lifetime monthly pension of at least Fifteen thousand pesos (Php 15,000.00).

Retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of fifty (50) and have availed of 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 for under existing laws.

SEC. 6. Death Benefits. – Upon the death of a Filipino Olympian or Paralympian, the primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) to cover funeral services and other related expenses: *Provided*, That, if there are no primary beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to the said benefits.

For purposes of this Act, the primary beneficiaries shall refer to legitimate spouse and/or legitimate, illegitimate, or adopted children. Secondary beneficiaries shall refer to the parents, and in their absence, to the brothers or sisters of retired Filipino Olympian or Paralympian.

SEC. 7. Other Benefits. – Retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians, who have not yet reached the age of sixty (60) or are not considered persons with disabilities (PWDs), shall be entitled to:

- (a) 20% discount on domestic transportation on air, sea and land;
- (b) 20% discount on hotel and lodging within the Philippines;
- (c) 20% discount on all restaurants;
- (d) 20% discount at recreational centers, cinema houses, museums etc.;
- (e) 20% discount on medicine and drug purchases;
- (f) 20% discount on sports equipment purchases; and
- (g) Free medical and dental consultations as an outpatient or in the emergency setting, in all government health facilities.

SEC. 8. Availment of Benefits and Privileges. – The abovementioned benefits and privileges shall be availed by retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians upon presentation of a valid identification card to be issued by the PSC: *Provided*, That retired Filipino Olympians and Paralympians shall not avail of said benefits and privileges under Section 7 of this Act in combination with similar benefits and privileges under other existing laws.

SEC.9. Adjustment of Retirement Benefits. – The adjustment in retirement benefits provided in Section 5 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 and the Chairperson of the PSC, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with relevant agencies, entities and concerned Olympians and Paralympians. However, no memorandum, order or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits provided under this Act.

SEC. 10. Appropriations. – The Chairperson of the PSC shall immediately include in the PSC 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. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The PSC shall, in consultation with the Philippine Olympians Association and the Philippine Paralympic Committee and other concerned agencies, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity: *Provided*, That failure to promulgate the rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. 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.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,