

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **6522**

**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
And Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT GRANTING HEALTH CARE, RETIREMENT, DEATH BENEFITS, AND
OTHER PRIVILEGES TO RETIRED FILIPINO OLYMPIANS, AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

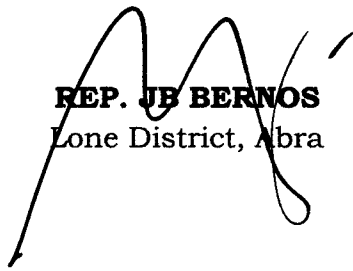
Filipino Olympians stand as symbols of perseverance, excellence, and national pride. From Hidilyn Diaz's historic gold medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to Carlos Yulo's world-class performances in gymnastics, they have lifted the spirit of a nation and proven that Filipino talent can stand among the best in the world. Yet, beyond the medals and the glory, many of our Olympians face uncertainty once their competitive careers end. Without stable sources of income, access to quality healthcare, or retirement support, these modern-day heroes often struggle despite the honor they have brought to the country.

Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State "shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism." Likewise, Article XIII, Section 11 obliges the State to make essential goods, health, and social services accessible to all. These constitutional provisions reflect a moral and social duty to ensure that those who have dedicated their youth, strength, and skill to uplifting the nation through sports are cared for in return.

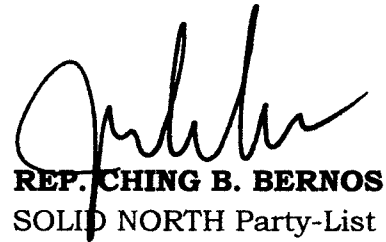
The proposed "Beyond Gold Act" seeks to grant health care, retirement, death benefits, and additional privileges to retired Filipino Olympians. It establishes a lifetime pension program, full PhilHealth coverage, and access to PCSO's Individual Medical Assistance Program for hospitalization needs. It also provides a ₱50,000 death benefit for the Olympian's beneficiaries and various privileges such as discounts on medicines, transportation, and sports equipment similar to those enjoyed by senior citizens and PWDs. The bill further directs the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to administer these benefits and coordinate with relevant government agencies for its effective implementation.

By institutionalizing these protections, this measure aims to honor Filipino Olympians such as Carlos Yulo, Hidilyn Diaz, and the generations of athletes who have proudly carried the Philippine flag. It reaffirms the nation's commitment to stand by them not just in victory, but in life beyond the games.

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



REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District, Abra



REP. CHING B. BERNOS
SOLID NORTH Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Beyond Gold Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote sports to foster patriotism and nationalism. Moreover, The State guarantees measures that promote and protect human dignity and social equality. To this end, the State shall provide health care and retirement and death benefits to Retired Filipino Olympians, in recognition of the glory and honor that they have bestowed the Philippines and its people.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- (a) Filipino Olympians – refer to athletes who a) are Filipino citizens, as defined by the 1987 Constitution, and b) have competed in either the Winter or Summer Olympic Games as official representatives of the country;
- (b) Olympians – refer to those who have been bestowed the title by the World Olympians Association;
- (c) Retired Filipino Olympian – refers to a Filipino Olympian who is no longer or who is not a National Athlete as defined under Republic Act No. 10699 and who has ceased participating and no longer intends to participate in any domestic or international competition under R.A. 10699. It shall not include those who have decided to change their sport, who shall be considered retired only after they have ceased to participate in the latter during either

the Winter or Summer Olympic Games and in any domestic or international competition; and

- (d) Primary Beneficiaries - refer to legitimate spouses and/or legitimate, illegitimate, or adopted children; and
- (e) Secondary beneficiaries - refer to his/her parents, and in their absence, to his/her legitimate brothers or sisters.

SEC. 4. Health Care Benefits. – Retired Filipino Olympians, regardless of age, shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Corporation provided by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), through a special program sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), which will provide the required local government premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PHIC. Upon reaching the age of fifty (50), the Retired Filipino Olympian shall be an honorary member of the program, subject to existing PHIC rules and regulations and without prejudice to the benefits afforded to senior citizens.

In case of hospitalization of the Retired Filipino Olympians in any hospital or clinic, any amount in excess of the PHIC 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 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, etc. that may apply in accordance with the policies of these facilities.

The benefits extended under this Section shall be non-transferrable and shall not cover the usual beneficiaries under the regular health programs of the government.

SEC. 5. Retirement Benefits. – Retired Filipino Olympians shall, upon reaching the age of fifty (50), receive a non-transferrable lifetime monthly pension of at least Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00).

Retired Filipino Olympians 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 by existing laws.

SEC. 6. Death Benefits. – Upon the death of any Filipino Olympian, his/her primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses: Provided, that, if there are no primary beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to

the said benefits. In the absence of all qualified beneficiaries, the estate of the Filipino Olympian shall receive the benefit.

SEC. 7. Other Benefits. – Retired Filipino Olympians, who have not yet reached sixty (60) years old 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;
- (g) Free Medical and Dental Consultations as an outpatient or in the emergency setting, in all government health facilities.

SEC. 8. 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 (DBM) and the Chairperson of the PSC, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with relevant agencies, entities and concerned athletes or coaches. However, no memorandum, order or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Philippine Sports Commission. Thereafter, the necessary sums shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairman of the PSC, with other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act..

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, specifically provisions of RA 10699, entitled the "National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act", inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,