

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*



HOUSE BILL NO. **6524**

---

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

---

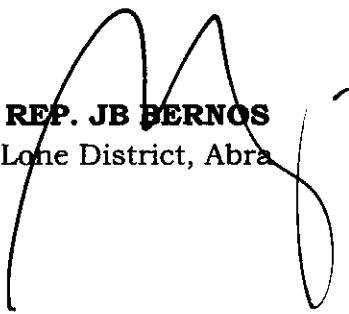
**AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

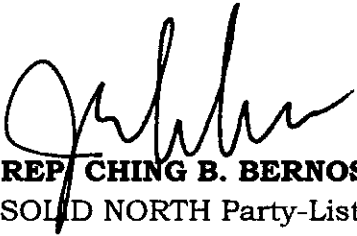
The 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall “promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions” as well as “foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity.” Yet despite these constitutional mandates, the present structure of government has fragmented the promotion, development, and administration of sports, culture, and the arts into multiple agencies with overlapping mandates and limited coordination. This has resulted in bureaucratic inefficiencies, underinvestment in grassroots talent, and gaps in long-term national planning. Filipino athletes continue to rely heavily on individual initiative and private sponsorship to excel in international competitions, while Filipino artists and cultural workers face unstable funding and inadequate institutional support. Meanwhile, world-class sports and cultural facilities remain unevenly distributed and underutilized across the country.

This bill seeks to create a Department of Sports, Culture, and the Arts to unify governance, strengthen support systems, and ensure that Filipino talents, whether on the global sports stage or in cultural and artistic arenas, receive the recognition, development, and social protection they deserve. By integrating national policy direction, facilities management, grassroots development, and international relations under one department, this measure aims to address longstanding structural barriers and build a sustainable ecosystem for national excellence. It likewise establishes mechanisms for incentives, quality infrastructure, and comprehensive cultural and sports development planning that align with the nation’s long-term socio-economic goals and global competitiveness.

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

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

HOUSE BILL NO. 6524

---

**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS  
and Representative CHING BERNOS**

---

**AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SEC. 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of every citizen, especially the youth, in nation-building by ensuring equal access to sports, culture, and the arts regardless of sex, gender preference, or socioeconomic status, while upholding and preserving moral, cultural, and spiritual values amid a changing world. To this end, the State shall prioritize and promote sports, culture, and arts as instruments to foster patriotism, nationalism, social progress, and human development, and shall endeavor to establish a unified national body to incentivize and support Filipino athletes, coaches, and cultural artists, ensuring their greater participation in domestic and international competitions and performances. In pursuit of these objectives, the Philippine Sports Commission and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts are hereby attached to the Department of Sports, Culture, and Arts, consistent with the powers and functions provided herein.

**SEC. 2. Powers and Functions of the Department.** – The Department shall exercise the following powers and functions:

1. Policy and Planning - Formulate, recommend and implement national policies, plans programs, and guidelines that will promote the development and harness the potential of all Filipino athletes, coaches, and cultural artists with due consideration to their welfare and success as national athletes and cultural artists competing and performing locally and in the international environment;

2. Plans, implement, and oversee integrated sports, culture, and arts promotion and development program for the country, in coordination with the various sectors involved in sports, culture, and arts including but not limited to the national sports association, sports organization, and private corporation;
3. Establish and maintain linkages with international sports federations, national sports organizations of other countries, and international non-governmental organizations;
4. Establish, develop, and maintain world-class fully-equipped sports facilities and centers in strategic places in the country and, as far as practicable, include modern sports complexes adequate for major international competitions;
5. Acquire, use and control any land, buildings, facilities, equipment, instruments, tolls, and rights required or otherwise necessary for the accomplishment of the objective of the Department;
6. Acquire, own, possess, regulate, and dispose of any real or personal;
7. Adopt, prepare, and implement comprehensive and detailed 50-year sports, culture, and arts development plan and work for its adoption and implementation;
8. Establish national asset management and registry program in determining important cultural properties, historical sites, archeological sites, and national cultural treasures of the nation in order to safeguard their intrinsic value; and
9. Ensure a sustainable funding mechanism for the implementation of sports, culture, and arts policies, plans, programs, projects, and other activities;

**SEC. 3. Organization.** – The Department shall be composed of these following positions:

1. Secretary. - The authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary of Sports, Culture, and Arts, who shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines. The secretary shall have the following functions:
  - a. Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations of the Department and its attached agencies;
  - b. Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient and economical operation of the Department, in accordance with the programs of government;
  - c. Review and approve requests for financial and manpower resources of all operating offices of the Department;
  - d. Designate and appoint officers and employees of the Department, excluding undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, regional executive directors, and assistant regional directors, which shall be in accordance with the Civil Service Commission;
  - e. Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees of the Department in accordance with the law, including their investigation

and the designation of a committee or officer to conduct investigations;

- f. Coordinate with other agencies and public and private interest groups, including non-government organizations on the Department policies and initiatives;
  - g. Prepare and submit to the President through the Department of Budget and Management an estimate of the necessary expenditures of the Department during the next fiscal year, on the basis of the reports submitted by the bureaus and offices under his/her jurisdiction;
  - h. Serves as a member of the Government Procurement Policy Board pursuant to Republic Act No. 9184;
  - i. Advise the President on the promulgation of executive and administrative orders and formulation of regulatory and legislative proposals on matters pertaining to sports, culture, and arts programs;
  - j. Formulate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers as may be required to implement the objectives of this Act; and
  - k. Perform such other tasks as may be provided by the law assigned by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.
2. Undersecretaries. - There shall be six (6) undersecretaries who shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary and the Career Service Executive Board and additional undersecretaries with coterminous appointments with the President of the Philippines as he may see fit, which shall consist of the following positions:
- a. Undersecretary for Administration;
  - b. Undersecretary for Finance;
  - c. Undersecretary for Legal;
  - d. Undersecretary for Policy and Planning;
  - e. Undersecretary for Operation;
  - f. Undersecretary for Public Information and Domestic and International Relations; and
  - g. Undersecretary for Information and Technology.
3. Assistant Secretaries. - There shall be assistant secretaries to be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Department Secretary, and shall be assigned in the following areas;
4. Regional Executive Directors. - There shall be a Regional Executive Director in each region who shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively carrying out the duties and responsibilities of his office;
5. Structure and Staffing Pattern. - The organizational framework and staffing pattern of the Department shall be prescribed and approved by the Secretary within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, and the authorized position created therein shall be approved by the Department of Budget and Management, which shall be filled through the job opportunity list of the

Civil Service Commission Omnibus Rules on Appointments and Other Human Resource Actions; and

6. Secretariat. - The Department shall organize bureaus, divisions, and offices in such manner as would carry out the declared policies and objectives enunciated herein and consistent with the provisions of the Civil Service Laws and Regulations.

**SEC. 5. Attached Agencies.** - The following agencies shall retain their powers and functions but shall be attached to the Department which shall have overall supervision:

- (a) Philippine Sports Commission;
- (b) Games and Amusement Board;
- (c) National Commission of Culture and the Arts.
  - (i) Cultural Center of the Philippines
  - (ii) National Historical Commission of the Philippines
  - (iii) National Museum of the Philippines
  - (iv) National Library of the Philippines
  - (v) National Archives of the Philippines
  - (vi) Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino

**SEC. 6. Incentives Program.** - it is the policy of the State in the pursuit of its national sports, culture, and arts development goals to provide monetary and tax incentives to national athletes and cultural artists in order to encourage the participation of the community in the development of sports, culture, and arts in the grassroots sector. In addition, all donations and contributions to the Department in connection with its fundraising projects and its continuing sports, culture, and arts development program shall be exempt from the donor's tax and shall be deductible in full in the computation of the taxable net income of the donor.

Furthermore, all delegations or representatives to any international competition, conventions, meetings, events, and performances shall be exempt from the payment of travel tax, airport tax, and other related taxes or fees now or hereafter imposed by laws or regulations.

**SEC. 7. Sports Facilities.** - The administration, supervision, and full control of all existing sports facilities, including land, buildings, and equipment, owned by the national government as well as those owned by a government-funded foundation, organization, association, and entities shall be transferred to the Department.

**SEC. 8. Cultural and Arts Facilities.** - All cultural and arts facilities such as museums, art galleries, and botanical and zoological gardens of historic, educational, or cultural interest and the like shall remain within their respective institutions or entities.

**SEC. 9. Reportorial Requirements.** - The Department together with the Attached Agencies shall submit a report to the Committees of both Houses on the status of

the implementation of this Act including but not limited to organization and its operation, application, administration, execution, the effectiveness of its program, and public expenditures as may be determined by the Congressional Oversight Committee.

**SEC. 10. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial of this Act shall be sourced from any available funds of the National Treasury and is hereby appropriated and authorized to be released for the organization of the Department and its initial operations. Thereafter, funds sufficient to fully carry out the objectives, powers, and functions of the Department shall be appropriated every fiscal year in the General Appropriations Act. The Department shall submit its annual budget, which shall include, among others, detailed information on the compensation and benefits received by the employees to the Office of the President for approval.

**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, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed 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,