

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6854**



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE RICARDO S. CRUZ, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many Filipinos, particularly the youth and those from economically disadvantaged sectors, are unable to participate in organized sports due to the high cost of membership, training, equipment, and access to adequate facilities. The lack of accessible and well maintained sports infrastructure, coupled with financial barriers to participation, continues to limit the full realization of the State's constitutional mandate on sports development.

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen government support for sports development by providing for the upgrading of sports facilities nationwide and extending financial assistance in the form of sports vouchers. These vouchers may be used to help defray the costs of participation in duly accredited or recognized sports clubs, recreation clubs, sports associations, or sports organizations under the Philippine Sports Commission. Through this mechanism, the measure aims to broaden access to organized sports and encourage greater participation across all sectors of society.

By investing in both infrastructure development and direct support to individuals, this bill promotes inclusivity in sports, nurtures athletic talent at the grassroots level, and contributes to the formation of a healthier, more disciplined, and competitive citizenry.

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


RICARDO S. CRUZ JR.

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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 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 36 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 to 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,