



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7226



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "*The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.*"

In the past few years, many Filipino athletes have given honor to the country in the international scene. It cannot be denied that we are a home to many champions, having bagged several medals from various international sports competitions and tournaments. However, it cannot also be denied that only few Filipinos were able to internationally compete and represent the country. While our athletes do not lack in passion nor talent, they should still be equipped with the necessary tools and skills to enhance performance, gain confidence, and ensure victory. Thus, it is imperative upon the State to allocate funds and financially support them.

Thus, this bill seeks to strengthen local sports programs by mandating the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) allocate adequate resources for supporting 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. Supporting our athletes will inspire national pride and unity, motivate youth empowerment, and maintain a healthy citizenry.

This bill was also filed during the 19th Congress, where it was approved on third and final reading by the House of Representatives.

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



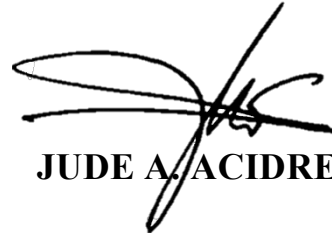
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

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 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,