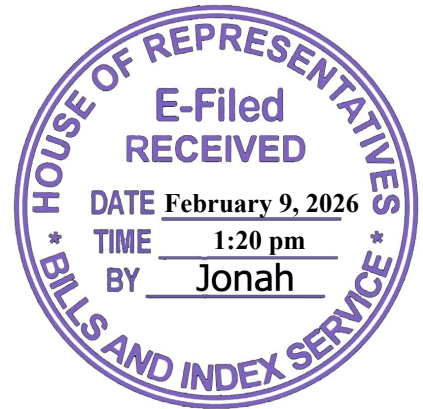


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7657



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State 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. Consistent with this constitutional policy, sustained investment in athletic development, particularly at an early age, is essential in cultivating future national athletes and ensuring the continued competitiveness of the Philippines in regional and international sporting events.

Beyond elite athletic development, participation in sports and physical activities yields broader social benefits. Regular engagement in organized sports promotes physical fitness, supports mental and emotional well-being, and instills core values such as discipline, cooperation, perseverance, and sportsmanship, especially among the youth. Studies and empirical experience likewise demonstrate that access to structured athletic activities can serve as a constructive outlet for young people, helping to deter delinquency and reduce the likelihood of engagement in criminal behavior by providing positive alternatives and community engagement.

However, sports and other physical activities have other understated positive effect on the youth, and on society as a whole. Aside from being an easy and enjoyable way to maintain good physical health, it could also greatly improve mental and social well-being and foster among the youth important values such as team-spirit, self-discipline, and sportsmanship. Furthermore, studies have shown that sports and athletics can be a powerful tool for reducing crime rates by diverting at-risk individuals from delinquent behavior.¹

Notwithstanding these recognized benefits, access to sports facilities and athletic programs remains uneven, particularly for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. Many existing sports facilities and establishments are underutilized or inaccessible due

¹ Richardson, Cara & Cameron, Paul & Berlouis, Katherine. (2017). The Role of Sport in Deradicalisation and Crime Diversion. Journal for Deradicalization. 29-48.

to financial, administrative, or institutional barriers, thereby limiting opportunities for broad-based youth participation.

Clearly, creating avenues for youth to engage in athletic activities would go a long way in creating well-rounded citizens. One of such avenues would be making already existing facilities and establishments more accessible to youth of all backgrounds, which is the measure that the present bill forwards.

This bill seeks to address this gap by promoting greater accessibility to existing sports facilities and establishments, with the objective of expanding opportunities for youth engagement in athletics regardless of socioeconomic background. By lowering barriers to participation and maximizing the use of existing infrastructure, the measure aims to contribute to the development of well-rounded, disciplined, and socially responsible citizens, in keeping with the State's constitutional mandate.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7657

Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

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

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 “Kabataang Atleta Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to 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, or sports organization of their choice; *Provided*, that the sports club, recreation club, or sports organization is duly accredited by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

SECTION 3. *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 in local sports clubs, recreation clubs, or sports organizations whose facilities and activities can provide them the proper venue and opportunities for training and competition. 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 as well as athletes who cannot afford to join any local sports club, recreation club, or sports organization by reason of financial constraints. Young athletes shall be provided with a discount voucher of up to Three thousand pesos (P3,000.00) annually to help pay for their registration, membership, participation, and training fees. The vouchers can be redeemed at a sports club, recreation club, or sports organization registered with the program;

- b) *Get Going Fund.* – The fund shall be used to support local sports clubs, recreation clubs, and sports organizations with funding of up to Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) annually for projects and programs that provide opportunities for more young athletes to become involved in sports; 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, and sports organizations in improving sports facilities and encourage more young athletes to become actively involved in sports activity of their choice.

SECTION 4. *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 recognized or duly accredited local sports club, recreation club, or sports organization; and
- c) A resident in the locality where the sports club, recreation club, or sports organization is located.

SECTION 5. *Conditions for the Use of the Voucher.* – The use of the sports voucher shall be governed by the following conditions:

- a) It shall not be redeemable for cash;
- b) It is non-transferable to any person except to another local sports club, recreation club, or sports organization;
- c) It is transferable to another local sports club, recreation club, or sports organization only once a year: *Provided*, that the transfer is applied for prior to the actual use and enjoyment of the sports facilities;
- d) It cannot be reused once redeemed by the local sports club, recreation club, or sports organization; and
- e) Only one (1) voucher shall be payable to an eligible athlete per calendar year.

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 an amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PSC, in consultation with various national sports associations, shall 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, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this app or hereby repealed or modified 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,