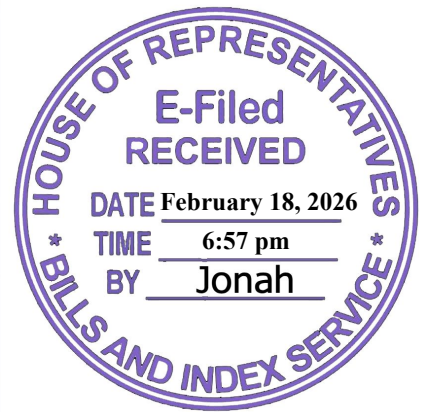


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7893



Introduced by 2nd District of Iloilo Representative
HON. KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA, M.D.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE PSA BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR STUDENT
ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT-RECOGNIZED SPORTS
EVENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV Section 19 of the 1987 Constitution directs the State to promote physical education, encourage sports programs and foster athletic excellence to develop a healthy and alert citizenry. At all levels of competition, student athletes are required to present certified PSA birth certificates as part of eligibility verification. For many families, however, the cost of securing these documents continues to be a financial burden that can hinder participation in sanctioned events.

This measure removes that barrier by granting student athletes one free PSA-issued birth certificate when participating in government-recognized or nationally sanctioned sports events, including competitions endorsed by DepEd, CHED, the Philippine Sports Commission, the Philippine Olympic Committee and accredited National Sports Associations. The bill covers athletes competing in domestic and international youth tournaments and emerging disciplines such as e-sports, ensuring that no athlete is excluded due to inability to pay for required documentation.

By eliminating this cost, the State strengthens its commitment to youth development, sports excellence and equitable access to athletic opportunities, consistent with its constitutional duty to support the physical, moral and social well-being of the youth.

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


KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA, M.D.
Representative
2nd District of Iloilo

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PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT-RECOGNIZED SPORTS EVENTS

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “*Free PSA Birth Certificate For Student Athletes Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to promote youth development, sports excellence and equal opportunity in athletic participation. The State shall remove undue financial barriers that hinder student athletes from joining government-recognized or nationally sanctioned sports events and shall ensure that documentary requirements imposed by government agencies remain accessible and supportive of public purpose.

SEC. 3. **Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Act:

- a) *Student Athlete* refers to a bona fide learner or student enrolled in any public or private basic education institution or higher education institution who is officially listed as a participant in a sanctioned sports event.
- b) *Sanctioned Event* refers to any sports competition that is officially recognized, endorsed or sanctioned by the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), or any National Sports Association (NSA) duly accredited under the POC; and in the case of international competitions, an event where the Philippines is formally represented through a delegation endorsed by the school, CHED, DepEd, PSC, POC, or the relevant NSA. This definition covers youth international competitions tournaments and emerging sports including e-sports, provided they are sanctioned through the appropriate Philippine authorities.
- c) *Endorsing School Authority* refers to the principal, athletics director or sports coordinator who issues the endorsement required under this Act.

SEC. 4. **Coverage.** This Act shall apply to student athletes officially endorsed to participate in government-recognized or nationally sanctioned sports events during the school year or athletic season.

SEC. 5. **Waiver of PSA Birth Certificate Fees.** The Philippine Statistics Authority shall issue one (1) certified true copy of a PSA birth certificate free of charge to each student athlete covered by this Act for the purpose of verifying eligibility for participation in sanctioned events.

The waiver applies only to requests made specifically for participation in such events.

SEC. 6. **Verification and Endorsement.**

- a) The endorsing school authority shall issue a certification stating that the student athlete is an official participant in a sanctioned event.
- b) The endorsement shall accompany the student athlete's application for the free birth certificate.
- c) The PSA may establish additional verification procedures, including digital validation systems, to prevent fraud and ensure operational integrity.

SEC. 7. **Limitations.**

- a) The waiver shall apply only once per sanctioned event per student athlete.
- b) The waiver shall not cover expedited processing fees or requests for multiple copies unless required by the sanctioning government agency.
- c) PSA may require digital or electronic submission of endorsements to streamline verification.

SEC. 8. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PSA, in coordination with DepEd, CHED, PSC, POC and the NSAs involved, shall issue the necessary rules for its effective implementation. Coordination with the POC and NSAs shall be limited to matters relating to event sanctioning and delegation procedures.

SEC. 9. **Appropriations.** Funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations of the agencies concerned. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. **Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. **Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. **Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,