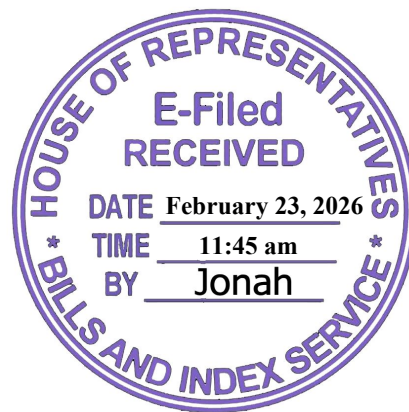


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7916



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize a comprehensive tertiary education scholarship and grant program for the children of professional Filipino athletes who have represented the Philippines in the international arena.

The 1987 Constitution, under Article XIV, Section 19, states 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."* Our professional athletes are not just mere competitors, but are also ambassadors of the Philippine spirit. Every time a Filipino athlete steps onto the international stage, they carry a sense of *"Pinoy Pride"* that boosts our national image and inspires the next generation of Filipinos.

Today, we are witnessing a golden age of Philippine sports. From the historic double-gold performance of Carlos Yulo in the 2024 Paris Olympics¹ to the consistent world-class excellence of pole vaulter EJ Obiena², and the breakthrough rise of tennis player Alex Eala into the global Top 50³, our athletes continue to prove that Filipino talent and grit is world-tier.

However, the career of a professional athlete is notoriously brief and physically taxing. Unlike their counterparts in other countries who may benefit from extensive state-sponsored lifelines, many Filipino professional athletes must divide their focus between rigorous training, and the need to provide for their families. While an athlete's peak years bring immediate glory to the country, those same years are often spent in financial anxiety regarding the long-term security of

¹ Tim Genske. Forbes. *Paris Olympics 2024: Gymnast Carlos Yulo Rewarded for Two Gold Medals*. 23 September 2024. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/timgenske/2024/09/20/paris-olympics-2024-gymnast-carlos-yulo-rewarded-for-two-gold-medals/>

² Fentuo Tahiru Fentuo. Olympics. *Asian Athletics Championships 2025: Philippines' EJ Obiena wins third straight gold in men's pole vault*. 31 May 2025. <https://www.olympics.com/en/news/asian-athletics-championships-2025-mens-pole-vault-results>

³ Brad Kallet. WTA Tennis. *Eala becomes First Filipina to crack Top 50 in WTA rankings*. 3 November 2025. <https://www.olympics.com/en/news/asian-athletics-championships-2025-mens-pole-vault-results>

their families, and there is no greater tool for social progress than the education of the next generation. .

This proposed measure recognizes that the most meaningful way to honor an athlete's service is to ensure that their children are not left behind. Granting full college scholarships and educational allowances to the children of our professional athletes provides a lifeline of opportunity that outlasts any trophy or medal. It transforms the fleeting honor of a sporting victory into the permanent legacy of a college education for the athlete's children.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7916

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
GRANTING FULL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TO CHILDREN OF
PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO COMPETED IN
INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS, OR IN OTHER
EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL GAMES, AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Tertiary Scholarship Grant to Children of Professional Filipino Athletes Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall give priority to sports in order for the citizens to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Thus, the State shall provide necessary benefits, which include but may not be limited to, health, retirement, death, and educational benefits, to professional Filipino athletes who competed or shall compete in international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world championship games, in both individual or team events, in honor of the pride and glory they have brought to the country.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a. Board refers to the Games and Amusement Board (GAB);
- b. Filipino athlete refers to a professional athlete who is a citizen of the Philippines, except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of Republic Act (RA) No. 9225, otherwise known as the “*Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003*”;
- c. International professional sports competitions refer to sanctioned athletic events, tournaments, or matches involving professional athletes from multiple nations, which are organized or sanctioned by an International

Sporting Organization recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, or memorandum of understanding with the Board;

d. International sporting organizations refer to international or regional governing bodies that establish rules, promote, and oversee specific sports disciplines across multiple countries, and which are formally recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, or memorandum of understanding with the Board;

e. Other equally prestigious international games refer to other international professional sports competitions or events which, while not explicitly labeled as “competitions” under Section (3)(c), are determined by the Board to confer the same rank, stature, and international recognition as those defined therein;

f. Primary beneficiaries refer to the legitimate spouse and legitimate, or illegitimate children of the professional athlete;

g. Professional athlete refers to any natural person who is paid a sum of money or other equivalent compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a game, bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either as an individual contestant or a member of a team, under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter, operator, or team owner, and is licensed by the Board;

h. Professional sports refer to individual or team sports, games, contest, bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money or other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for participation, which are accredited and recognized by the Board; and

i. Tertiary education refers to a level of education pursued beyond high school considered as undergraduate credential.

SEC. 4. *Educational Benefits to Primary Beneficiaries or Children.* – Professional Filipino Athletes, as defined under this Act, who competed in international professional sports competitions, and other equally prestigious international games shall be qualified to receive the following educational benefits for their chosen primary beneficiaries or children:

a. Free tuition and exemption from other fees upon admission to state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs) in the Philippines pursuant to RA No. 10931, otherwise known as the “*Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act*”; and

b. educational allowance amounting to Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00) per academic year for the whole duration of the beneficiary or child's Tertiary education: *Provided*, That the primary beneficiary or child shall be officially enrolled in any of the country's SUCs or LUCs: *Provided, further*,

That the Professional Filipino Athlete has not received, is not receiving, or will not receive any financial incentive from the government which cumulative amount is more than Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) for a period five (5) years prior the enrollment of the primary beneficiary or child in Tertiary education, has no declared liabilities, and has not been convicted of any crimes involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 5. *Claiming of Educational Benefits Upon the Death of Professional Filipino Athletes.* – Upon the death of a Professional Filipino Athlete before the primary beneficiaries or children become qualified for Tertiary Education, the primary beneficiaries or children shall still be entitled to the educational benefits or scholarship grant upon their official enrollment in Tertiary Education programs of any of the country's SUCs or LUCs, as stipulated in this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The Chairman of the Board shall immediately include in the Board's program the implementation of the benefits under this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board within ninety (90) days, after the effectivity of this Act, through a technical working committee, and in consultation with the sectors concerned, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Act: *Provided, however,* That copies of the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to the Committee on Games and Amusement of both Houses of Congress. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 8. *Reportorial Requirements.* – The Board shall submit an annual report of the implementation of this Act to the relevant committees of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,