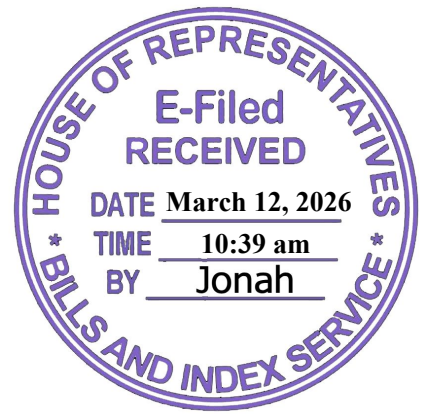


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8488**



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 19 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. It also indicates that all educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.

Filipino athletes like Carlos Yulo, EJ Obiena, and Alexandra Eala have brought pride to the nation through their participation in international competitions. This bill seeks to nurture the next generation of national athletes who could represent the Philippines in future global sporting events.

Giving the youth opportunities to participate in athletic activities will contribute to positive outcomes for society as a whole.

For these reasons, the swift passage of the foregoing measure is earnestly sought.


RICARDO S. CRUZ JR.

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **8488**

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

**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. 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 a 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. — Provides young athletes (including those with disabilities and those with financial constraints) up to ₱3,000 annually in discount vouchers for registration, membership, participation, and training fees at participating accredited clubs.
- b) Get Going Fund. — Supports local sports clubs, recreation clubs, and sports organizations with funding of up to ₱50,000 annually for programs that expand youth participation in sports.
- c) Get Playing Fund. — Provides up to ₱500,000 annually to assist local clubs and organizations in improving sports facilities and expanding youth engagement.

SECTION 4. Eligibility Criteria. – To avail of the sports voucher, a young athlete must:

- a) Be under 18 years of age and actively engaged in any sport;
- b) Be a member of a recognized or duly accredited local sports club, recreation club, or sports organization; and
- c) Be a resident in the locality where the club or organization is located.

SECTION 5. Conditions for the Use of Voucher. – The voucher shall:

- a) Not be redeemable for cash;
- b) Be non-transferable except to another accredited club or organization;
- c) Only be transferred once a year if applied for in advance;
- d) Not be reusable once redeemed;
- e) Only be issued one voucher per 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 this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – If any part of this Act is held invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,