

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11004**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant retirement, health care, and death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win championship titles in international professional sports competitions or other equally prestigious international sporting events.

Professional Filipino athletes bring honor and international recognition to the Philippines through exceptional athletic achievement. However, many world champions face financial insecurity, limited access to health care, and inadequate social protection after retirement due to the absence of a dedicated welfare system. While Republic Act No. 10699, otherwise known as the "*National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act*," provides incentives for amateur athletes, there is no comparable legal framework recognizing the long-term welfare needs of professional athletes who likewise achieve distinction for the country.

This measure provides lifetime retirement pensions, PhilHealth coverage, hospitalization assistance, death benefits, and a Professional Filipino Athletes Welfare Development Trust Fund. It likewise authorizes the Games and Amusement Board to administer the program and ensure its long-term sustainability.

The proposed measure recognizes the invaluable contributions of professional Filipino athletes and affirms the State's commitment to safeguarding their welfare beyond their competitive careers.

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. **11004**

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AN ACT

GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND MORTUARY BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR 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 “*Professional Filipino Athletes Retirement, Health Care, and Mortuary Benefits Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the invaluable contribution of professional Filipino athletes who bring honor and distinction to the nation through triumph in international sports competitions. Towards this end, the State shall extend retirement, health care, and mortuary benefits to safeguard their long-term welfare beyond their competitive years.

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 professional athletes who are citizens of the Philippines, except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of Republic Act No. 9225 otherwise known as the “*Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003*”;
- c. International Professional Sports Competitions refers to international bodies that are reorganized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or memorandum of understanding with the Board;

d. International Sporting Organizations refers to international bodies that are recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement, and/or memorandum of understanding with the Board;

e. Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games refers to other international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or stature as world championship titles and are recognized as such by the Board;

f. Primary Beneficiaries refer to the legitimate spouse, and legitimate or illegitimate children of the Filipino 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 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/or recognized by the Board; and

i. Secondary beneficiaries refer to the parents, and in their absence, the brother/s or sister/s of professional athletes.

SEC. 4. *Retirement Benefits.* – Professional Filipino Athletes, as defined under this Act, who win in international professional sports or other equally prestigious competitions shall, upon reaching fifty (50) years old, receive the following retirement benefits:

a. Lifetime monthly pension of at least Fifteen thousand pesos (Php 15,000.00) for the individual winner for individual events; or

b. Lifetime monthly pension of at least Ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) for each team member for team events: *Provided*, That for athletes who win in individual and team events, the retirement benefits for individual events shall apply.

Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach fifty (50) years old and have availed of the retirement benefits under this Act may continue with such employment: *Provided*, That the benefits under this Act shall be separate from any retirement benefits provided under existing laws or company policies.

SEC. 5. *Health Care Benefits.* – Immediately upon winning in any international professional sports competitions, Professional Filipino Athletes shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), through a special program sponsored by the Board, which

will provide the required local government premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PhilHealth. Upon reaching the age of fifty (50), the athletes shall continue to be a member of the program, subject to existing rules and regulations of the PhilHealth.

In case of hospitalization of the Professional Filipino athlete in any hospital or clinic, any amount in excess of the PhilHealth benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP): *Provided*, That the requirement for qualification and grant of the health care assistance to be extended by the PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to compliance with PCSO's existing rules and guidelines: *Provided, further*, That any qualified beneficiary shall have the option to waive the benefits mentioned under this Section.

SEC. 6. *Mortuary Benefits*. – Upon the death of a professional Filipino Athlete, the primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum mortuary benefit of Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) to cover funeral services and expenses: *Provided*, That if there are no primary beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

SEC. 7. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits*. – The Board is hereby authorized to adjust the retirement benefits provided in Section 4 hereof, based on studies, consultations, and public hearings with relevant agencies and entities. However, no memorandum, order, or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits provided herein.

SEC. 8. *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. 9. *Professional Filipino Athletes Welfare Development Trust Fund*. – There is hereby established an independent and separate trust fund established under this Act to be administered by the Board. An amount not less than eighty percent (80%) for the first five (5) years, accrued from the licensing, registration and accreditation fees, fines and charges, shall be used for the purpose of the professional Filipino athletes' welfare development trust fund. The fund shall be used for the continued upgrading of training facilities to conform with international standards, accreditation of, and other forms of assistance and support to the professional athlete's sector. The trust fund may also accept grants and donations from national and foreign entities and individuals interested in the professional athletes' development.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, through a technical working committee, and in consultation with the sectors concerned, shall promulgate and issue the rules and regulations necessary 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. 11. *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. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the law or other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,