



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4352

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ACHARON, CARI, VILLAR, SAMBAR, ABAYON,  
SAKALURAN, HERRERA-DY AND UNICO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT  
NO. 726

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AN ACT GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

1           SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Professional  
2 Filipino Athletes Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2011”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall provide retirement,  
4 health care and death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world  
5 championship titles in international professional sports competitions or in other  
6 equally prestigious world championship games, in both individual or team  
7 events, in recognition of the glory and honor they bestowed to their country.

8           SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following  
9 terms shall be defined as follows:

10           (a) *Professional Filipino Athletes* shall refer to athletes who are  
11 Filipino citizens and paid a sum of money and other compensation as a salary  
12 or prize money for participating in a game, bout, tournament or contest of

1 professional sport, either as an individual contestant or member of a team  
2 under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or  
3 team owner and licensed by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB).

4 (b) *Professional Sports* shall refer to individual or team sports, games,  
5 contests, bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete  
6 is paid sums of money and other forms of compensation as regular salary or  
7 prize for participation, which are accredited and recognized by the GAB.

8 (c) *International Professional Sports Competitions* shall refer to  
9 international competitions that confer world championship titles in both  
10 individual or team events which are duly sanctioned and recognized by  
11 international sporting organizations and bodies and accredited by the GAB.

12 (d) *Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games* shall refer  
13 to other international professional sports competitions that confer the same  
14 rank or stature as world championship titles and recognized as such by the  
15 GAB.

16 (e) *International Sporting Organizations* shall refer to international  
17 bodies that are recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship,  
18 agreement and/or memorandum of understanding with the GAB.

19 SEC. 4. *Retirement Benefits.* – Professional Filipino athletes, as  
20 defined under this Act, who win in international professional sports  
21 competitions shall, upon reaching the age of fifty (50), receive the following  
22 retirement benefits:

23 (a) For Individual Events. – A lifetime monthly pension of at least  
24 Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) for the individual winner; and

25 (b) For Team Events. – A lifetime monthly pension of at least Ten  
26 thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) for each team member: *Provided, That for*  
27 *athletes who win in both individual and team events, the retirement benefits for*  
28 *individual events shall apply.*

1 Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of  
2 fifty (50) and have availed of the retirement benefits under this Act may  
3 continue with such employment: *Provided*, That the retirement benefits under  
4 this Act shall be separate and distinct from the mandatory retirement benefits  
5 provided by existing laws.

6 SEC. 5. *Health Care Benefits.* – Immediately upon winning in any  
7 international professional sports competitions, professional Filipino athletes  
8 shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine  
9 Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), through a special program  
10 sponsored by the GAB, which will provide the required local government  
11 premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PhilHealth. Upon reaching  
12 the age of fifty (50), the athlete shall be an honorary member of the program,  
13 subject to existing rules and regulations of the PhilHealth.

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

23 SEC. 6. *Death Benefits.* – Upon the death of a professional Filipino  
24 athlete, the primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit  
25 of Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses:  
26 *Provided*, That, if there are no primary beneficiaries, the secondary  
27 beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

1 For purposes of this Act, primary beneficiaries shall refer to legitimate  
2 spouse, legitimate or illegitimate children. Secondary beneficiaries shall refer  
3 to the parents, and in their absence, to the brothers or sisters of professional  
4 athletes.

5 SEC. 7. *Retroactive Effect.* – The benefits provided under this Act  
6 shall retroact to all living professional Filipino athletes who, prior to the  
7 enactment of this Act, have won in any international professional sports  
8 competition, upon compliance with the requirements that shall be prescribed  
9 by the GAB in its implementing rules and regulations: *Provided, That,* the  
10 winning professional athlete was duly licensed by the GAB at the time of the  
11 competition and the sports event participated in was recognized and accredited  
12 by the GAB.

13 SEC. 8. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits.* – The adjustment in  
14 retirement benefits provided in Section 4 hereof may be authorized, subject to  
15 the approval of the President, upon the joint recommendation of the Secretary  
16 of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Chairman of the  
17 GAB, based on studies, consultations and public hearings with relevant  
18 agencies, entities and concerned athletes or coaches. However, no  
19 memorandum, order or issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement  
20 benefits.

21 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The Chairman of the GAB shall  
22 immediately include in the Board's program the implementation of the benefits  
23 under this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
24 Appropriations Act.

25 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The GAB, in  
26 consultation with the Senate, the House of Representatives and other  
27 concerned agencies, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and  
28 regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

1           SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act  
2 shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not  
3 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4           SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive  
5 orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the  
6 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7           SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
8 its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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