

- 1 c. *Fronton* shall refer to the court where basque pelota games are played, including
2 the adjoining structures used in connection with such games, such as the betting
3 booths and galleries, totalizator equipment, and the grandstands where the public
4 is admitted in connection with such games;
- 5 d. *Jai-alai* or *basque pelota game* shall refer to the pelota game and which shall
6 include the use of pala, raqueta, cesta punta, remonte and mano, in which
7 professional players participate;
- 8 e. *Pelotari* shall refer to a professional player engaged in playing basque pelota;
- 9 f. *Professional athlete* shall refer to any natural person, who is paid a sum of money
10 or other equivalent compensation as a salary or prize money for participating,
11 either as an individual or member of a team, in a game, bout, tournament or
12 contest of professional sport: *Provided*, That it shall not include those who are paid
13 "token amounts" or its equivalent as salary, prize, or compensation;
- 14 g. *Professional boxer or wrestler* shall refer to a professional athlete engaged in
15 boxing or wrestling, respectively;
- 16 h. *Professional fighter* shall refer to a professional athlete engaged in unarmed
17 contact sports, other than boxing or wrestling, such as mixed martial arts, thai
18 boxing, *muay thai*, and kickboxing;
- 19 i. *Professional sports or competitions* shall refer to individual or team sports, games,
20 contest, bouts, tournaments or competitions, whereby the participating athletes
21 are paid sums of money or other forms of compensation as salary or prizes for
22 participation, or those that are conducted by promoters, operators, owners or
23 leagues, foundations or athletic societies for profit: *Provided*, That competitions
24 with gate entry fees, television coverage, paid advertisements or sponsors are
25 presumed to be conducted for profit: *Provided further*, That it shall not include
26 competitions held by and under the auspices of national sports associations duly
27 recognized as such by the Philippine Sports Commission, solely for the
28 development of the national training pool, or under the auspices of schools,

1 colleges and universities, for the health and sports development of their students,
2 including inter-school competitions, or athletic associations or organizations of
3 schools, colleges and universities participated in solely by bona fide students of
4 the member schools, colleges and universities: *Provided finally*, That it shall not
5 include competitions whereby the participating athletes are paid "token amounts"
6 or its equivalent as salary, prize, or compensation;

7 j. *Purse* shall refer to prize, percentage or other remuneration for which boxing,
8 wrestling or mixed martial arts contestants compete;

9 k. *Special Armed Combat* shall refer to fights that involve the limited use of
10 traditional or cultural fighting implements such as arnis and other non-bladed
11 weapons involved in Filipino Martial Arts (FMA); and

12 l. *Token amount* shall refer to the money or prizes the value of which shall be
13 determined by the Board from time to time.

14 **SEC. 3. Games and Amusements Board.** – The Games and Amusements Board,
15 hereinafter referred to as the GAB, shall be attached to the Office of the President for policy
16 and program coordination. Except as otherwise herein provided, the GAB, created pursuant
17 to Executive Order No. 392 (s. 1951), entitled: "Further Reorganizing the Different Executive
18 Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Agencies of the Government of the Republic of the
19 Philippines, Making Certain Readjustments of Personnel and Re-allotments of Funds In
20 Connection Therewith, and For Other Purposes," shall continue to exercise its mandate over
21 professional sports under Presidential Decree No. 871, entitled: "Placing Professional
22 Basketball Games and Other Professional Games Under the Supervision and Regulation of the
23 Games and Amusements Board," boxing and wrestling under Executive Order No. 120
24 (s. 1948), entitled: "Regulating Boxing and Wrestling Contests or Exhibitions," betting on
25 horseracing under Republic Act No. 309, entitled: "An Act to Regulate Horse Racing in the
26 Philippines," as amended, cockfighting under Presidential Decree No. 449, also known as the
27 Cockfighting Law of 1974, in relation to Presidential Decree No. 1802, entitled: "Creating the
28 Philippine Gamefowl Commission," jai-alai or basque pelota games under Executive Order No.
29 135 (s. 1948), entitled: "Regulating the Establishment, Maintenance, and Operation of

1 Frontons and Basque Pelota Games (Jai Alai),”as amended, and anti-illegal gambling under
2 Administrative Order Nos. 262 (s. 1992), entitled: “Creating the GAB Anti-Illegal Gambling
3 Unit of the Games and Amusements Board,” and Administrative Order No. 222 (s. 1995),
4 entitled: “Strengthening the Operations of the Anti-Illegal Gambling Unit of the Games and
5 Amusement Board.”

6 **SEC. 4. *Composition of GAB.*** – The GAB shall be composed of a Chairman and two (2)
7 Commissioners to be appointed by the President. The Chairman shall be the executive officer
8 and shall manage the day-to-day operations of the agency.

9 **SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of GAB.*** – The GAB, sitting as a collegial body, shall have
10 the following powers and functions:

11 a) ***Rule –Making Power.*** – The GAB shall be the policy making body of the agency.
12 It shall have the power to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation
13 of this Act and the accomplishment of its purposes and objectives;

14 b) ***Quasi –Judicial Power.*** – The GAB shall have the power to hear and decide any
15 matter, controversy, or dispute arising from this Act, including the authority:

- 16 1. To promulgate its own rules of procedure for the speedy disposition of
17 cases before it;
- 18 2. To designate any of its officers to conduct hearing or investigation of any
19 case pending before it;
- 20 3. To summon parties, issue subpoena or require the production of such
21 books, papers, contracts, records or other documents as may be necessary
22 for the just determination and adjudication of any matter under
23 investigation;
- 24 4. To impose administrative sanctions and fines;
- 25 5. To grant requests for provisional remedies;

- 1 6. To conduct mediation, conciliation, arbitration or other modes of settling
2 disputes; and
- 3 7. To perform such other duties and exercise other powers incidental to or
4 necessary to the exercise of its quasi-judicial powers.
- 5 c) *Appeal.* – All actions of the GAB in the exercise of its quasi-judicial power shall
6 be appealable to the Court of Appeals.
- 7 d) *Other Powers.* – The GAB shall likewise have the authority to:
- 8 1. Cooperate with local and international professional sports organizations or
9 regulatory bodies and attend relevant sports conventions, competitions
10 and events;
- 11 2. Cooperate with organizations engaged in the promotion and control of
12 amateur and collegiate sports;
- 13 3. Appoint personnel as it shall deem necessary in the exercise and
14 performance of its powers and duties, and/or to employ the services by
15 contract or otherwise, consultant or any local or foreign expert or technical
16 personnel to provide technical and necessary assistance, conduct seminars
17 and training and pay reasonable emoluments for their services;
- 18 4. Inspect the books, records and accounts of any person, entity or association
19 conducting or authorized to conduct professional sports and require that
20 the books and financial or other statement of such person, entity or
21 association shall be kept in such manner as it may prescribe; and
- 22 5. Perform such other duties and exercise all other powers incidental or
23 necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the Board and proper
24 enforcement of the provisions of this Act.
- 25

1 promulgated hereunder or whenever such action is necessary for the best interest
2 of the professional sports under the supervision of the GAB;

3 j. Consider, investigate, hear and decide all questions, matters, controversies or
4 disputes arising out of or connected with professional sports under its supervision
5 in accordance with the rules and procedures it may adopt;

6 k. Primary jurisdiction to hear and decide internal disputes of professional sports
7 leagues and organizations;

8 l. Adjudicate the claims between and among athletes, managers, promoters, and
9 other persons connected with professional sports, arising out of and in accordance
10 with their contract and award damages;

11 m. Impose administrative sanctions and fines to erring athletes, boxers, fighters,
12 promoters, managers, referees and other professional licensees of the GAB;

13 n. Investigate game-fixing, point shaving and similar machinations in professional
14 sports and cause the filing of appropriate cases against the parties involved;

15 o. Designate any of its officers to conduct hearing or investigation of any case
16 pending before it in the exercise of its quasi-judicial powers under this Act;

17 p. Require any promoter or entity applying for a permit to conduct professional
18 sports, contests or exhibitions to furnish the GAB with a cash or surety bond, in an
19 amount equivalent to twenty-five per centum (25%) of the total estimate of
20 receipts from the full seating capacity of the building, stadium or structure where
21 the contest or exhibition is to be held, to answer for the following obligations in
22 the order named:

23 i. Government share as provided for in Section 13 ;

24 ii. Reimbursement of tickets when so ordered by the GAB;

25 iii. Guarantee payment of services and prizes to competitors and games
26 officials.

- 1 q. Prescribe minimum standards for contracts between professional athletes and
2 their managers, including their sharing in the purse or prize money, if any, and
3 require the same to be registered with and approved by the GAB;
- 4 r. Require the parties concerned to furnish the GAB with a copy of all contracts
5 between promoters or other persons or entities conducting professional sports,
6 contests or exhibitions, and professional athletes, their managers, and other
7 persons who officiate at such sports, contests or exhibitions, at least seven (7)
8 days before the sports, contest or exhibition to which the contract relates;
- 9 s. Require the promoter or entity conducting the professional sports, contests or
10 exhibitions to pay immediately after such sports, contest or exhibition, or, in case
11 of a percentage contract, immediately after the percentage is determined by the
12 auditor of the GAB, in cash or check, the prizes, purses, compensation or other
13 remuneration of professional athletes, contestants, and all other persons entitled
14 to payment, and to furnish the Board or its authorized representative with a copy
15 of the receipt for such payment; and
- 16 t. Perform such other duties and exercise all other powers incidental or necessary
17 for the attainment of the purposes of the Board and proper enforcement of the
18 provisions of this Act.

19 **SEC. 7. License.** – No professional athlete, professional sports official or person
20 connected with professional sports, regardless of nationality and residence, shall be allowed
21 to engage in professional sports in the country, whether on a regular, seasonal or one-time
22 basis, without first obtaining the appropriate professional license from the GAB. Such license
23 may be suspended or revoked in any case where the GAB shall have reason to believe that
24 any of the aforesaid persons is guilty of any dishonest or fraudulent practice, or has violated
25 any law, decree, executive order, rule or regulation on professional sports, or for any just
26 cause.

27 No person, entity or association shall employ or enter into a contract with any
28 professional athlete or sports official for the conduct of professional sports without such
29 athlete or sports official having been duly licensed by the GAB.

1 **SEC. 8. *Qualifications.*** – The GAB shall, by regulation, prescribe the qualifications and
2 requisites which each applicant for a license shall possess. All professional athletes shall be
3 examined by a GAB physician, or the physician’s duly authorized representative, who shall
4 certify to both the applicant’s physical and mental fitness for competition before he is
5 granted a license.

6 **SEC. 9. *Permit.*** – It shall be unlawful for any person, entity or association to conduct
7 professional sports without permit duly issued by the GAB. Every permit issued shall specify
8 the person, entity or association to which it was issued, the place where and the date when
9 the games are to be held.

10 **SEC. 10. *Assignment of Sports Officials.*** – At each professional sport, the GAB shall
11 assign among the duly licensed professional sports officials the referees, timekeepers, scorers
12 and other officials to officiate thereat and only the officials so designated shall have authority
13 to perform their respective functions.

14 **SEC. 11. *Duty of Person, Entity or Association Conducting Professional Games.*** – It
15 shall be the duty of the person, entity or association conducting professional sports, to see
16 that peace and order is maintained in the premises of the place where the games are being
17 conducted and that the rules and regulations governing the same are properly observed.

18 **SEC. 12. *Admission Receipts and Other Income.*** – The GAB shall, through its duly
19 authorized representatives, supervise the sale of admission tickets for any professional sport.
20 All tickets, except complimentary tickets, shall state the price, name of person, entity or
21 association conducting the professional sports, team names and the date of the games
22 printed plainly thereon. No ticket shall be sold for more than the price as printed thereon and
23 any change in ticket prices or the date of the games shall be subject to the approval of the
24 GAB.

25 **SEC. 13. *Government Share.*** – Any person, entity or association conducting
26 professional sports shall set aside and remit to the GAB three per cent (3%) of the gross gate
27 receipts and income from television, radio, motion picture rights, and other forms of
28 streaming or broadcasting using advanced technology and other electronic media, if any,

1 which shall be available to defray the expenses of the personnel of the GAB assigned to
2 supervise the games and for such other expenses in other activities of the GAB.

3 **SEC. 14. *Submission of Copies of Contracts.*** - All persons, leagues, corporations and
4 other entities involved in professional sports shall submit to the GAB copies of all their
5 contracts with radio and television networks or with entities engaged in other forms of
6 streaming or broadcasting of professional sports using advanced technology and other
7 electronic media, within ten (10) days from execution of the same.

8 **SEC. 15. *Exempt Sports.*** - The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to
9 competitions held by and under the auspices of national sports associations duly recognized
10 as such by the Philippine Olympic Committee solely for the development of the national
11 training pool, or by schools, colleges and universities for the health and sports development
12 of their students, including inter-school competitions, or by athletic associations and
13 organizations of schools, colleges and universities participated in solely by bona fide students
14 of the member schools, colleges and universities.

15 **SEC. 16. *Foreign Travel.*** - To ensure safety and welfare of licensees, the GAB may
16 require athletes, officials, or other licensees who will travel abroad to participate in any
17 sports tournaments, games or competitions to secure from the GAB an authority or clearance
18 to travel and compete abroad: *Provided*, That this requirement shall be mandatory for boxers
19 or fighters and their accompanying managers, trainers, promoters, or their duly authorized
20 representatives who will travel to, and participate in any foreign boxing promotion or other
21 contact sports competition abroad.

22 **B. Professional Boxing and other Contact Sports.**

23 **SEC. 17. *Measures to be Undertaken Before, During, and After Each Match.*** - The GAB
24 shall implement the appropriate measures to be undertaken before, during and after each
25 match of boxing or contact sports to ensure the safety of all boxers, wrestlers and fighters.

26 **SEC. 18. *Medical Tests*** - In addition to medical tests required by the GAB, the GAB
27 shall also require regular Computed Tomography Scan (CT Scan) of the brain and when

1 necessary, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) or such other additional tests as the GAB may
2 in its discretion hereafter require.

3 All government hospitals, laboratories, clinics and medical installations catering to the
4 public shall provide free annual CT Scans of the brain or MRI, when necessary, to indigent
5 boxers, wrestlers and fighters, upon proper certification by the GAB.

6 **SEC. 19. *Age of Contestants.*** – No contestant under the age of eighteen (18) years
7 shall be licensed as a professional boxer, wrestler or fighter. The GAB may, under exceptional
8 circumstances, allow a minor, but not less than sixteen (16) years of age, to apply for a license
9 and participate in a professional boxing, wrestling or mixed martial arts match upon written
10 consent of the minor's parents or in the absence thereof, the court appointed legal guardian.

11 **SEC. 20. *Persons Prohibited from Admission.*** – Persons under sixteen (16) years of age,
12 persons carrying firearms or deadly weapons of any description, except government officials
13 in the performance of their official functions, intoxicated persons, and persons of disorderly
14 nature and conduct who are apt to disturb peace and order, shall not be admitted or allowed
15 to remain in and around the premises of the place where boxing, wrestling or other contact
16 sport contest or exhibition is being conducted: *Provided*, That persons under sixteen (16)
17 years of age may, when accompanied by any of their parents or court appointed guardians,
18 be admitted therein.

19 **SEC. 21. *Licensed Physician.*** – It shall be the duty of every promoter or person or entity
20 conducting boxing, wrestling or contact sports contests or exhibitions to have in attendance
21 at every such contest or exhibition at their expense, a licensed physician who has had not less
22 than three years' medical practice, whose duty shall be to observe the physical condition of
23 the boxers, wrestlers, and fighters and advise the referees with regard thereto, and one hour
24 before the contestants enter the ring, to certify in writing to the GAB or its representative
25 the contestants' physical condition to engage in the contest or exhibition.

26 **SEC. 22. *Rest Period.*** – In order to protect the health and safety of boxers, wrestlers or
27 fighters, the GAB shall, by regulation, provide for mandatory rest periods for such boxers,
28 wrestlers or fighters who participated in a fight, bout, contest or exhibition before they may
29 be allowed to compete again.

1 compliance with the terms and conditions set by the GAB including distance from other OTB
2 stations and from places of worship and educational institutions.

3 **SEC. 26. OTB Station Permit to Operate.** - No OTB station shall be established and
4 operated without the appropriate permit from the GAB. Neither shall any betting be
5 conducted through the telephone, the internet and other electronic means such as short
6 messaging service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar platforms without the
7 appropriate permits issued by the GAB.

8 **SEC. 27. Records of Tickets Sold.** - No person, race-track, racing club, nor any other
9 entity holding horse races shall be allowed to hold races, unless such person, race track,
10 racing club, or entity is provided with an automatic, electrically-operated public indicator
11 system and ticket-selling machines, by means of which every ticket purchased on every horse
12 in any race, shall be automatically and instantaneously recorded by electrical impulse on a
13 prominently-displayed bulletin board, each figure, letter, or symbol of which shall be readable
14 from a distance.

15 **SEC. 28. Track Auditors and Checkers.** - For the purpose of supervising and verifying
16 the accuracy of reports of any person, race track, racing club, or any other entity holding
17 races, with respect to the totalizator receipt or the total amount of wager made on each
18 racing event, the dividends awarded for winning horses, whether win, place, or show on each
19 event, and other matters referring to the financial computations or statements, the GAB shall
20 appoint such number of auditing officers and checkers as may be necessary to be placed in
21 the offices and tracks, race track, racing club, or entity concerned. It shall be the duty of said
22 auditing officers and checkers to report to the GAB any irregularities or erroneous
23 computations, which they may discover in connection with reports on the totalizator sales or
24 the total sales of wager tickets, or the dividends awarded on each racing event.

25 **SEC. 29. Betting.** - The face value of totalizator tickets for wager may be One Peso
26 (P1.00), Two Pesos (P2.00) or Five Pesos (P5.00), whether for win, place, or show. The face
27 value of said tickets, as the case may be, shall be the basis for the computation of dividends,
28 and such dividends shall be paid after eliminating fractions of Ten Centavos (P0.10). If no
29 ticket has been sold on a winning horse, whether for win, place or show, the dividends

1 corresponding to such race shall be paid out to the holders of tickets sold on the horses that
2 finished dead heat, or on the horse that finished next to that on which not a single ticket was
3 sold: Provided, That the owner of said winning horse shall be entitled to the corresponding
4 stake or prize.

5 **SEC. 30. *Persons Prohibited from Betting.*** – Owners and employees of racing clubs or
6 race tracks, persons or entities holding horse races, and their officials, including stewards,
7 judges, handicappers, jockeys, and starters shall not be permitted to participate directly or
8 indirectly, in the betting on races conducted in their own race-tracks. GAB members,
9 including GAB officials and employees, are likewise prohibited from betting on any race.

10 **SEC. 31. *Persons Prohibited From Admission.*** – Persons carrying deadly weapons or
11 firearms of any description, except government peace officers or security personnel of the
12 race track or OTB station or officials of the GAB in the performance of their official functions,
13 and intoxicated persons and persons who are apt to disturb peace and order, shall not be
14 admitted or allowed to remain in a race track or OTB station during a racing day. In no case
15 shall persons under twenty-one (21) years of age be allowed admission to a race track or OTB
16 station and in no case shall persons under twenty-one (21) years of age be allowed to bet or
17 to purchase wager tickets for others.

18 **SEC. 32. *OTB Station Limitation.*** - No OTB station shall be allowed to be established
19 and allowed to operate less than 300 meters away from schools or learning institutions and
20 churches or places of worship actively and currently being used as such. New OTB stations
21 shall only be allowed to be established if it is situated 500 meters away from an existing and
22 operating OTB station. An existing OTB station transferring to another location shall be
23 considered a new OTB station and shall be required to comply with the requirements
24 therefor.

25 **SEC. 33. *Time for Running Daily Double Races; Posting of Ticket Sales.*** – The time for
26 the running of the first race of any daily double event shall be determined by the GAB
27 depending upon the circumstances surrounding each racing day which shall be announced to
28 the public by the person, race track, racing club, or entity holding the races through
29 loudspeakers at the time of the selection of the races constituting the daily double event, and

1 the second race thereof shall be run not later than forty-five minutes after the first race. The
2 sale of tickets for the daily double races shall be allowed after the Board or its authorized
3 representatives have announced to the public the two races constituting each daily double
4 event. The number of tickets sold on each horse in the two races of each daily double event
5 and the totals thereof shall be posted at conspicuous bulletin boards. This information shall
6 also be given to the public through loudspeakers. The closing of the sale of tickets for each
7 event shall be properly announced by the ringing of a bell, after which no more tickets shall
8 be sold.

9 **SEC. 34. *Distribution of Receipts.*** – The total wager funds or gross receipts from the
10 sale of pari-mutuel tickets shall be apportioned as follows: eighty-seven and one-half per
11 centum (87.5%) shall be distributed in the form of dividends among holders of win, place and
12 show horses, as the case may be, in the regular races; twelve and one-half per centum
13 (12.5%) shall be set aside as the commission of the person, race track, racing club, or any
14 other entity conducting the races, which shall include the amounts for the payment of
15 authorized stakes or prizes for win, place and show horses, and authorized bonuses for
16 jockeys; and in the case of daily double races, the gross receipts derived from the total sale of
17 daily double tickets shall be apportioned in the same manner as provided hereinabove,
18 except that the eighty-seven and one-half per centum (87.5%) of the gross receipts from the
19 total sale of daily double tickets shall be distributed in the form of dividends among the
20 holders of the winning combination of horses, that is, the two horses that won first place in
21 the two races, instead of among holders of win, place and show horses, as in the case of
22 regular races: *Provided, however,* That of the twelve and one-half per centum (12.5%)
23 representing the commission of the person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity
24 holding horse-racing an amount equivalent to one-half per centum (0.5%) of the total wager
25 funds or gross receipts from the sale of tickets shall be set aside and turned over to the GAB
26 by the person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity holding the race as a special fund
27 activity to cover the expenses and such other purposes authorized under this Act. Any
28 unexpended balance of this fund at the end of each year in excess of Ten Thousand Pesos
29 (P10,000.00) shall be turned over to the Bureau of Animal Industry to be used by the latter
30 exclusively for the promotion of horse breeding in the Philippines.

- 1 electronic means such as short messaging service (SMS), mobile and desktop
2 applications and similar platforms, and to collect fees amounting to three percent
3 (3%) of the gross bets made through OCBS and the aforementioned platforms to
4 defray the expenses of the GAB;
- 5 f. Prescribe policy guidelines for the issuance of permits by the Bureau of Animal
6 Industry for the importation or entry of gamecocks into the country for breeding
7 or competition purposes;
- 8 g. Promulgate its own rules and procedures relative to the conduct of its own
9 business;
- 10 h. Deputize any government office, entity, agency and public officer in the
11 implementation of all laws, decrees, letters of instructions, general orders
12 pertinent to cockfighting and rules and regulations issued by the GAB;
- 13 i. Initiate, undertake, hear and decide any investigation for any violation of this Act,
14 rules and regulations of the GAB and in connection therewith, to issue subpoena
15 ad testificandum and subpoena duces tecum;
- 16 j. Establish regional offices in such number and location as it will allow it to perform
17 the duties stated herein; and
- 18 k. Perform such other functions as may be authorized by law.

19 **SEC. 38. Cockpits and Cockfighting.** – In General:

- 20 a. *Ownership, Operation and Management of Cockpits.* Only Filipino citizens, not
21 otherwise inhibited by existing laws, shall be allowed to own, manage and operate
22 cockpits. Cooperative capitalization is encouraged.
- 23 b. *Establishment of Cockpits.* Only one (1) cockpit shall be allowed in each city or
24 municipality, except that in cities or municipalities with a population of over one
25 hundred thousand (100,000), two (2) cockpits may be established, maintained and
26 operated, which shall be licensed as such by the local government units in
27 accordance with the Local Government Code.

- 1 c. *Establishment of OCBS.* The GAB may authorize the establishment of OCBS
2 anywhere in the Philippines, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions
3 set by the GAB: *Provided,* That the operator of the OCBS shall have a legislative
4 franchise.
- 5 d. *OCBS Limitation.* - No OCBS shall be established and operated, nor any betting
6 through the telephone, the internet and other electronic means such as short
7 messaging service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar platforms be
8 conducted, without a legislative franchise and the appropriate permits issued by the
9 GAB; *Provided,* That no OCBS shall be allowed to be established and allowed to
10 operate less than 300 meters away from schools or learning institutions and
11 churches or places of worship actively and currently being used as such: *Provided*
12 *further,* That new OCBS shall only be allowed to be established if it is situated 500
13 meters away from an existing and operating OCBS: *Provided finally,* That existing
14 OCBS transferring to another location shall be considered a new OCBS and shall be
15 required to comply with the requirements therefore
- 16 e. *Cockpits Site and Construction.* Cockpits shall be constructed and operated within
17 the appropriate areas as prescribed in zoning law or ordinance. In the absence of
18 such law or ordinance, the local executives shall see to it that no cockpits are
19 constructed within or near existing residential or commercial areas, hospitals,
20 school buildings, churches or other public buildings. Owners, lessees, or operators
21 of cockpits which are now in existence and do not conform to this requirement are
22 given three (3) years from the date of effectivity of this Act to comply herewith.
23 Approval or issuance of building permits for the construction of cockpits shall be
24 made by the city or provincial engineer in accordance with their respective
25 building codes, ordinances or engineering laws and practices.
- 26 f. *Holding of Cockfights.* Cockfighting shall be allowed only in licensed cockpits on
27 days as the local government unit concerned sees fit: *Provided,* That no
28 cockfighting shall be held on December 30 (Rizal Day), June 12 (Philippine
29 Independence Day) November 30 (National Heroes Day), Holy Thursday, Good

1 Friday, Election or Referendum Day and during Registration Days for such election
2 or referendum.

3 g. *Other games during cockfights proscribed.* No gambling of any kind shall be
4 permitted on the premises of a cockpit or place where a cockfight is held while a
5 game is ongoing. The owner, manager or lessee of such cockpit and the violators
6 of this injunction shall be criminally liable.

7 h. *Persons Prohibited From Admission.* – Persons carrying deadly weapons or
8 firearms of any description, except government peace officers or security
9 personnel of the cockpit arena or OCB station or officials of the GAB in the
10 performance of their official functions, and intoxicated persons and persons of
11 disorderly nature and conduct who are apt to disturb peace and order, shall not be
12 admitted or allowed to remain in a cockpit arena or OCB station during a
13 cockfighting event. In no case shall persons under twenty-one (21) years of age be
14 allowed admission to a cockpit arena or OCB station and in no case shall persons
15 under twenty-one (21) years of age be allowed to bet or to purchase wager tickets
16 for others.

17 **SEC. 39. Cockfighting Officials.** – Gaffers, referees, *mangagamot* or specialists, bet
18 takers or promoters of local cockfights shall not act as such in any cockfight herein
19 authorized, without first securing a license from the city or municipality where such
20 cockfighting is held. Gaffers, referees, *mangagamot* or specialists, bet takers or promoters
21 who shall engage in a cockfight held in a different municipality or city or in international
22 derbies shall secure a license from the GAB: *Provided*, That GAB should extend due
23 consideration on their capacity of the to pay . In both cases, the GAB shall maintain a register
24 of all such gaffers, referees or bet takers.

25 **SEC. 40. International Cockfighting Events.** - For international cockfighting events, the
26 GAB shall collect from the cockpit operator an amount equivalent to three percent (3%) of all
27 gate receipts collected at the entrance gates. The GAB shall also collect from the cockpit
28 operator the equivalent of 3% of its customary share from the betting pool, otherwise known
29 as the plazada, from every international cockfight.

1
2 CHAPTER V

3 JAI ALAI

4 **SEC. 41. Powers and Functions Relative to Jai-Alai.** – The GAB shall:

- 5 a. Exercise supervision over the establishment, maintenance and operation of
6 fronton, basque pelota games and off-fronton stations operated by entities with
7 the appropriate franchise;
- 8 b. Promulgate rules and regulations relative to the holding, methods, procedures,
9 operations and conduct of jai-alai;
- 10 c. License pelotaris and all jai-alai personnel and to suspend or revoke any license
11 granted under this Act to any basque pelota fronton or to any official or employee
12 thereof, for violation of any of the rules and regulations which the GAB may
13 prescribe, or for any just cause;
- 14 d. Supervise and regulate the live streaming or broadcasting of jai-alai games and to
15 collect fees therefor;
- 16 e. Promulgate its own rules and procedures relative to the conduct of its own
17 business;
- 18 f. When warranted by the circumstances, deputize any government office, entity,
19 agency and public officer in the implementation of all laws, decrees, letters of
20 instructions, general orders pertinent to jai-alai and rules and regulations issued by
21 the Board;
- 22 g. To initiate, undertake, hear and decide any investigation for any violation of this
23 act, rules and regulations of the Board and in connection therewith, to issue
24 subpoena and subpoena duces tecum and ad testificandum;
- 25 h. To perform such duties and exercise such powers as may be necessary or
26 incidental to achieve the objectives of this Act;

1 i. To perform such other functions as may be authorized by law.

2 **SEC. 42. *Persons Prohibited From Admission.*** – Persons carrying deadly weapons or
3 firearms of any description, except government peace officers or security personnel of the
4 fronton or off-fronton station or officials of the GAB in the performance of their official
5 functions, and intoxicated persons and persons of disorderly nature and conduct who are apt
6 to disturb peace and order, shall not be admitted or allowed to remain in a fronton or off-
7 fronton station during a jai-alai game. In no case shall persons under twenty-one (21) years
8 of age be allowed admission to a fronton or off-fronton station and in no case shall persons
9 under twenty-one (21) years of age be allowed to bet or to purchase wager tickets for
10 others.

11 **SEC. 43. *Gambling Prohibited.*** – No card games or any of the prohibited games shall be
12 permitted within the premises of any fronton.

13 **SEC. 44. *Books, Records and Accounts.*** – The GAB, or its duly authorized
14 representative, shall have the power to inspect at all times the books, records, and accounts
15 of any fronton. The GAB may, in its discretion and as the circumstances may warrant, require
16 that the books and financial or other statements of the person or entity operating the game
17 be kept in such manner as the GAB may prescribe.

18 **SEC. 45. *Pelotaris, Judges, Referees, etc. shall be Licensed.*** – No person or entity
19 operating a fronton, wherein games are played with betting, shall employ any pelotari, judge
20 or referee, superintendent of games (*intendente*), or any other official whose duties are
21 connected with the operation or supervision of the games, unless such person has been duly
22 licensed by the GAB. Such license shall be granted upon satisfactory proof that the applicant
23 is in good health, knows the rules and usages of the game, and is a person of good moral
24 character and of undoubted honesty. In the case of pelotaris, such license shall be granted
25 only upon the further condition that they are able to play the game with reasonable skill and
26 with safety to themselves and to their opponents. The GAB may further require other
27 reasonable qualifications for applicants to a license, not otherwise provided herein.

28 **SEC. 46. *Installation of Automatic Electric Totalizator.*** – Any person or entity operating
29 a fronton wherein betting in any form is allowed shall install in its premises an automatic

1 electrically operated indicator system and ticket selling machine, commonly known as
2 totalizer, which shall clearly record each ticket purchased on every player in any game, the
3 total number of tickets sold on each event, as well as the dividends that correspond to
4 holders of winning numbers.

5 **SEC. 47. *Establishment of Off-fronton Stations.*** - The GAB may authorize the
6 establishment of off-fronton stations anywhere in the Philippines, subject to compliance with
7 the terms and conditions set by the GAB including distance from other off-fronton stations
8 and from places of worship and educational institutions.

9 **SEC. 48. *Off-fronton Station Authority to Operate.*** - No off-fronton station shall be
10 established and operated without the appropriate permit from the GAB. Neither shall any
11 betting be conducted through the telephone, the internet and other electronic means such as
12 short messaging service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar platforms without
13 the appropriate permits issued by the GAB.

14 **SEC. 49. *Supervision Over Sale of Betting Tickets and Payment of Dividends.*** – For the
15 purpose of verifying the accuracy of reports in connection with the sale of betting tickets and
16 the computation of dividends awarded to winners on each event, as well as other statements
17 with reference to the betting in the games played, the GAB shall assign such number of
18 auditing officers and checkers as may be necessary for the purpose. These auditing officers
19 and checkers shall be placed in the ticket selling booths, dividend computation booths and
20 such other parts of the fronton, where betting tickets are sold and dividends computed. It
21 shall be their duty to check up and correct any irregularity or any erroneous report or
22 computation that may be made by officials of the fronton, in connection with the sale of
23 tickets and the payment of dividends.

24 **SEC. 50. *Distribution of Wager Funds.*** – Unless otherwise provided for in the their
25 franchise, the total wager funds or gross receipts collected by duly authorized jai-alai
26 operators/clubs from the sale of the betting tickets shall be apportioned as follows: a
27 commission not exceeding ten and one-half per centum (10.5%) on the total bets on each
28 game or event shall be set aside for the person or entity operating the fronton and four and
29 one-half per centum (4.5%) of such bets shall be remitted to the National Treasury for

1 disposition as may be authorized by law or executive order; and the balance or eighty-five per
2 centum (85%) of the total bets shall be distributed in the form of dividends among holders of
3 "win" or "place" numbers or holders of the winning combination or grouping of numbers, as
4 the case may be: *Provided, however,* That of the ten and one-half per centum (10.5%)
5 representing the commission of the person or entity operating the fronton, an amount
6 equivalent to one-half per centum (.5%) of the total bets or wager funds shall be set aside and
7 remitted to the GAB, and made available to cover its expenses for the supervision and
8 regulation of basque pelota games in frontons and off-frontons.

9 **SEC. 51. Supervision over the Conduct of Games; Enforcement of Rules and**
10 *Regulations.* – The GAB shall place within the premises of the fronton such number of
11 inspectors and agents as may be deemed necessary to supervise the conduct of the games, to
12 see that the rules of the games are strictly enforced, and to carry out the provisions of this
13 Act as well as such other regulations as may hereafter be prescribed.

14 **SEC. 52. Rules Governing the Games and Personnel of the Fronton.** – The rules and
15 regulations that have been adopted by any fronton to govern the operation of its games and
16 the behavior, duties and performance of the officials and personnel connected therewith,
17 such as pelotaris, judges, referees or superintendents of games (*intendentes*) and others, shall
18 be the recognized rules and regulations of such fronton until the same are altered or repealed
19 by the GAB; and subject to the approval of the GAB, any fronton may introduce any type or
20 form of games or events, provided they are not contrary to the provisions of this Act or any
21 law, rule or regulation hereafter issued.

22 **SEC. 53. Regulations Governing Pelotaris.** – Any rule or regulation adopted by any
23 established fronton governing the conduct or performance of pelotaris to the contrary
24 notwithstanding, the following regulations shall be observed:

25 a. The pelotaris who are participating in the games shall not be allowed to
26 communicate verbally or through signs with anyone in the public or with any
27 official or employee of the fronton during the games, except with the judges or
28 referees or the superintendent of games (*intendente*) in charge of the games;

1 assistance from government agencies involved in gaming operations or law enforcement in
2 the exercise of its functions.

3

4 **SEC. 57. *Prosecution.*** The GAB-AIGU shall monitor the status of arrests made and
5 complaints filed to ensure that suspects are prosecuted. The GAB shall submit a quarterly
6 report on the operations of the GAB-AIGU to the Office of the President.

7

8

CHAPTER VII

9

FINAL PROVISIONS

10 **SEC. 58. *Appropriations.*** – The amount needed to implement the provisions of this
11 Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation of the GAB and thereafter
12 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13 **SEC. 59. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The GAB shall, within ninety (90) days
14 after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement
15 this Act.

16 **SEC. 60. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be
17 unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall
18 continue to be in full force and effect.

19 **SEC. 61. *Repealing Clause.*** – Presidential Decree No. 871, Executive Order No. 120
20 (s. 1948), Presidential Decree No. 449, Presidential Decree No. 1802, Executive Order No. 135
21 (s. 1948). Sections 6 and 7 of Executive Order No. 392 (s. 1951), and Sections 6,11,15,18, and
22 24 of Republic Act No. 309 are hereby repealed. All other laws, orders and proclamations,
23 rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this
24 Act or its purposes are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

25 **SEC. 62. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 8910

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 4843 and 6983)

"STRENGTHENING THE GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS BOARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES RODEL M. BATOCABE, WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO, STRIKE B. REVILLA, JOSEPH STO. NIÑO B. BERNOS, LEO RAFAEL M. CUEVA, AND MARIA VIDA E. BRAVO, GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING, RANDOLPH S. TING, LIANDA B. BOLILIA, ROMEO M. ACOP, AURORA E. CERILLES, ENRICO A. PINEDA, MARIA THERESA V. COLLANTES, FLORIDA P. ROBES, PETER "SR. PEDRO" M. UNABIA, GAVINI "APOL" C. PANCHO, JOSEPH STEPHEN S. PADUANO, ARLENE B. ARCILLAS, EMI G. CALIXTO-RUBIANO, AND JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

Committee Chairperson: HON. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING

OBJECTIVE:

- To strengthen the powers and functions of the Games and Amusements Board (GAB), giving it the quasi-judicial powers to hear and decide on any matter, controversy, or dispute, and to promulgate rules of procedure for the speedy disposition of cases

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates that GAB shall be attached to the Office of the President. The GAB, created pursuant to Executive Order No. 392, S. 1951, shall continue to exercise its mandate over professional sports under Presidential Decree No. 871, boxing and wrestling under Executive Order No. 120, s. 1948, betting on horseracing under Republic Act No. 309, as amended, cockfighting under Presidential Decree No. 449 in relation to Presidential Decree No. 1802, jai-alai or basque pelota games under Executive Order No. 135, s. 1948, as amended, and anti-illegal gambling under Administrative Order Nos. 262 s. 1992 and 222 s. 1995.
- Provides that the GAB shall be composed of the Chairman and two (2) Commissioners to be appointed by the President. The Chairman shall be the executive officer and shall manage the day-to-day operations of the agency.
- Mandates the following powers and functions of the GAB:
 1. Rule-making power - to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation and accomplishment of the GAB's purposes and objectives;
 2. Quasi-judicial power- to hear and decide any matter, controversy, or dispute, including the authority to:
 - Promulgate rules of procedures for the speedy disposition of cases;

- Designate any of its officers to conduct hearing or investigation of any pending case;
- Summon parties, issue subpoena or require the production of books, papers, contracts, records, or other documents as may be necessary for the just determination and adjudication of any matter under investigation;
- Impose administrative sanctions and fines;
- Grant request of provisional remedies;
- Conduct mediation, conciliation, arbitration, or other modes of settling disputes; and
- Perform such other duties and exercise other powers incidental to or necessary to exercise of its quasi-judicial powers.

3. Other powers of the Board – The GAB shall likewise have the authority to:

- Cooperate with other local and international professional sports organization or regularly bodies and attend relevant sports conventions, competitions and events;
 - Cooperate with organizations engaged in the promotion and control of amateur and collegiate sports;
 - Appoint personnel or employ the services by contract or otherwise , consultant or any local or foreign expert or technical personnel to provide the technical and necessary assistance, conduct seminars and training, and pay reasonable emolument for their services;
 - Inspect books, records, and accounts of any person, entity, or association conducting or authorized to conduct professional sports and require the maintenance of such in a manner prescribed by the GAB; and
 - Perform such other duties and exercise all other powers incidental or necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the GAB and proper enforcement of the provisions of the bill.
- Provides that GAB shall supervise and regulate the following sports and amusements games:
 1. Professional sports
 2. Professional boxing and other contact sports
 3. Horseracing
 4. Cockfighting
 5. Jai-alai
 6. Other forms of amusements
 - Mandates that any person, entity or association conducting professional sports shall set aside and remit to the Board three per cent (3%) of the gross gate receipts and income from television, radio, motion picture rights, and other forms of streaming and broadcasting using advanced technology and other electronic media, if any, which shall be available to defray the expenses of the personnel of the GAB assigned to supervise the games for such other expenses in other activities of the GAB.

- Provides the establishment of Athletes' Welfare Fund to be contributed from one percent (1%) of all receipts and income of the GAB, to be managed by the GAB for the benefit of athletes who sustained injury or died in the exercise of their profession, or in such other cases as the GAB may deem fit, unless the disability or death is a result of an unauthorized or illegal professional sports contest.
- Requires GAB to develop a program for immediate financial and medical assistance to deserving indigent athletes suffering from injuries and emergencies related to their profession.
- Authorizes the GAB to receive in trust any donation, endowment or contribution to the Athletes' Welfare Fund.
- Mandates the GAB to regulate and supervise the live streaming, broadcasting or other forms of transmission of cockfights, and any and all betting on cockfighting through off-cockpit betting stations (OCBS) or through the telephone, internet and other electronic means such as short messaging service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar platforms and to collect fees amounting to three percent (3%) of the gross bets made through OCBs and the aforementioned platforms to defray the expenses of the Board.
- Creates an Anti-Illegal Gambling Unit (AIGU) attached to the GAB which is tasked to combat and prevent the existence and proliferation of illegal bookie joints and other illegal forms of organized gambling in professional sports and amusement games. It shall be composed of the Personnel from GAB Enforcement and Investigation Division and other organic personnel to be appointed by the Board.

AGENCIES INVOLVED:

- Games and Amusements Board (GAB)
- Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
- Philippine National Police (PNP)
- National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
- Philippine Racing Commission (PhilRaCom)
- Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office

RELATED LAWS:

- Executive Order No. 392
- Presidential Decree No. 871
- Executive Order No. 120
- Republic Act No. 309, as amended
- Presidential Decree No. 449
- Presidential Decree No. 1802
- Executive Order No. 135, as amended
- Administrative Order No. 262
- Administrative Order No. 222