



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

6236
House Bill No. _____

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In an effort to promote sports competition to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote human liberation and development, the passage of the Bill for the creation of the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission is hereby proposed. The main objectives for the passage of this Bill are the promotion and development of professional boxing and combat sports in the Philippines, promotion and development of world-class professional boxers and combatants, and protection of the welfare of professional boxers and combatants. If these objectives are achieved, the Filipino boxers and combatants will be able to maintain and even further develop its status as world-class athletes.

Considering the growing number of Filipino boxers and combatants, it is about time that they are given adequate support in order for them to flourish in their respective fields while they give glory and honor to our country.

This Bill is intended to establish the Philippine Boxing and Sports Commission which shall be the sole agency that shall establish and regulate policies related to professional boxing and combat sports.

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

eric l. olivarez
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AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING AND COMBAT SPORTS
COMMISSION 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 “Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote sports competition to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote human liberation and development. The State shall promote excellence in professional boxing and combat sports by establishing a commission that will formulate and implement a national policy

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

- (a) *Boxer* refers to an individual who fights another in a boxing match;
- (b) *Combat sports* refer to any or a combination of any of the following:
 - a. Boxing or fist fighting in any of its styles;
 - b. Kickboxing in any of its styles; and

- c. Any sport, martial art, or activity that involves, in accordance with applicable regulations, striking, kicking, hitting, grappling, throwing and/or punching opponents;
- (c) *Combatant* refers to a person who engages in combat sports as a contestant in a professional combat sports contest
- (d) *License* refers to a document issued by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission authorizing a person or entity to perform duties connected with professional boxing and combat sports;
- (e) *Manager* refers to a person who receives compensation for service as an agent or representative of a professional boxer or combatant;
- (f) *Permit* refers to a document issued by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission authorizing a person or entity to hold, promote, or engage in the conduct or operation of a professional boxing or combat sports match;
- (g) *Professional boxer* refers to a boxer who is issued a license or permit by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission to fight in a boxing match for a sum of money or other compensation such as a salary or prize money;
- (h) *Professional boxing match* refers to a boxing match between professional boxers who shall receive money or other compensation for fighting in said match, but shall not refer to a boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur sports organization
- (i) *Professional sports combatant* refers to a person who is issued a license or permit by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission to fight in a professional combat sports match for a sum of money or other compensation such as a salary, prize; and
- (j) *Promoter* refers to a person, group of persons, or an entity, licensed as such by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission and primarily responsible for organizing,

promoting and producing a professional boxing or combat sports match. The term "promoter" does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment hosting or sponsoring a professional boxing or combat sports match unless:

- a. The hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment is primarily responsible for organizing, promoting and producing the match; or
- b. There is no person or group of persons primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing the match.

SECTION 4. *Creation of the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission.* – To carry out the above declared policy, the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission, hereinafter referred to as "The Commission", is hereby created. The Commission shall be attached to the Office of the President and shall have the same status as a national regulatory agency.

SECTION 5. *Objectives.* – The Commission shall have the following objectives:

- a. To strengthen professional boxing and combat sports in the Philippines and promote the development of world-class professional boxers and sports combatants; and
- b. To establish policies related to and regulate professional boxers and combatants, and protect the welfare of professional boxers and combatants

SECTION 6. *Composition.* – The Commission shall be composed of a Chairperson and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines: *Provided*, that the Chairperson and two (2) of the members shall be chosen from the nominees of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), one (1) from

the nominees of the Department of Health (DOH), and one (1) from the private sector.

For succeeding appointments to the Commission, the nominations by the PSC and the DOH shall be submitted to the Office of the President thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the term of office of the incumbents, or within thirty (30) days from the occurrence of any vacancy in the Commission. The nominees shall be of known integrity and shall have nationally recognized experience and comprehensive knowledge in professional boxing and combat sports.

SECTION 7. *Term of Office.* – The term of office of the Chairperson and members of the Commission shall be six (6) years: *Provided*, that no vacancy shall be filled except for the unexpired portion of any term. The Chairperson and members of the Commission may be suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 8. *Meeting and Quorum.* – The Commission shall meet regularly once a month and as often as the exigencies of the service may demand, upon the call of the Chairperson or upon the request of at least three (3) members of the Commission. The presence of fifty percent (50%) of the entire membership of the Commission plus one member shall be required in order to constitute a quorum. The vote of a majority of the entire membership of the Commission shall be necessary to for the adoption of any rule, resolution or decision.

SECTION 9. *Allowances and Per Diems.* – The members of the Commission shall receive a per diem for each meeting actually attended by them at the rates to be approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

SECTION 10. Powers and Duties of the Commission. – The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. Formulate, initiate, plan and implement a national policy for the development of professional boxing and combat sports;
- b. Formulate, review, and update the rules and procedures related to professional boxing and combat sports in conformity with international standards;
- c. Establish a system of registration and licensing of boxers, combatants, referees, trainers, seconds, cut man, and other personnel, and maintain an integrated registry of professional boxers, combatants, coaches, trainers, judges, referees, and promoters;
- d. Establish rules, set requirements, and collect fees for the grant or renewal of license to a professional boxer, combatant, coach or trainer, promoter or judge or referee, and a permit for a professional boxing or combat sports match;
- e. Suspend or revoke a license or permit;
- f. Establish a consultative mechanism which shall provide a forum for continuing dialogue between all stakeholders in the implementation of all laws, policies, programs, and projects relating to boxing and combat sports;
- g. Act as a quasi-judicial board when it shall deem necessary to initiate, hear, and decide any investigation for any violation of its rules and regulations and, in connection therewith, issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum;
- h. Determine and set a safety standard for and ensure that emergency medical personnel and services are available in every professional boxing match and combat sports in the Philippines;
- i. Seek or request the assistance and support of any government agency, office or instrumentality including GOCCs, LGUs as well as non-governmental organizations or institutions in pursuit of its policies;

- j. Establish and maintain linkages with international boxing and combat sports organizations or institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign governments in order to facilitate and ensure the participation of Filipino professional boxers and combatants in international events;
- k. Allocate resources for the implementation of national policies related to boxers and combatants;
- l. Submit an annual report on the implementation of this Act to the President and to Congress; and
- m. Perform such other functions as may be deemed necessary to the effective and efficient carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

The functions of the Games and Amusements Board as well as other entities related to boxing and combat sports are hereby transferred to the Commission.

SECTION 11. *Secretariat.* – The Commission shall have a secretariat, which shall be headed by an Executive Director and such other technical and administrative as may be determined by the Commission. The Secretariat shall implement the policies and programs approved by the Commission and administer its day to day functions. The salaries, allowances, and other emoluments of the Secretariat shall be determined by the Commission in accordance with civil service rules, the salary standardization law, and other relevant and existing laws.

SECTION 12. *Physical and Medical Examination*

Requirements. – No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing and combat sports match without a physical and diagnostic examination for each participating professional boxer or combatant conducted by a licensed physician accredited by the Commission who certifies that the boxer or combatant is physically fit to safely compete.

SECTION 13. *Mandatory Rest Period.* – There shall be an interval between boxing contests and combat sports matches which shall be referred to as mandatory rest period. The duration of the mandatory rest period shall be determined by the Commission.

SECTION 14. *Emergency Medical Services.* – A professional boxing and combat sports match may be held only if:

- a. A licensed practicing physician, whose services are paid by the promoter and duly registered with the Commission, is continuously present at the ringside of the professional boxing and combat sports match;
- b. Ambulance services and other medical personnel equipped with appropriate resuscitation equipment, including oxygen tanks, are continuously present within the immediate vicinity of the ring; and
- c. A tertiary hospital is near the vicinity of the event: *Provided*, that a memorandum of agreement shall be executed between the promoter of the professional boxing and combat sports match and the hospital to ensure that the injured boxers and combatants shall be attended to in their facility with dispatch.

The absence of any of the aforementioned requirements shall be a cause for the cancellation of the permit to hold the professional boxing and combat sports match.

SECTION 15. *Social Pension and Health Care Benefits.* – All professional boxers and combatants shall be enrolled in the Social Security System (SSS), National Health Insurance Program – Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the Home Development Mutual Fund of PAG-IBIG, and shall be entitled to all the benefits in accordance with the pertinent provisions of law. The SSS shall develop and administer a separate social security program for boxers and combatants. This program may have different contribution, pension, and other benefit schemes. The premium

payments or other contributions shall be shouldered by the promoter of the professional boxers and combatants.

SECTION 16. *Boxing and Other Combat Sports Officials.* –

All the boxing and combat sports officials involved in any match shall not receive funds or compensation in any form, directly or indirectly, from the promoter or its agents. Such funds or compensation shall be coursing through and collected by the Commission for appropriate disbursement.

SECTION 17. *Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/or injured Professional Boxers and Combatants.* – The Commission, in coordination with various stakeholders in the boxing and combat sports industry shall establish an alternative livelihood training program and referral system.

SECTION 18. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed to fund the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 19. *Boxers and Combatants Welfare Development Trust Fund.* – There shall be an independent and separate trust fund established under this Act to be administered by the Commission and exclusively used for the welfare benefits of professional boxers and combatants. The Commission shall be authorized to receive grants, donations, or endowments, whether from domestic or foreign sources, for purposes related to its functions, which shall accrue to the fund: *Provided*, that in cases of donations from foreign governments, acceptance thereof shall be subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

SECTION 20. *Transitory Provision.* – Pending the organization of the Commission, the GAB shall continue to exercise its duties and functions in relation to professional boxing and combat

sports. Such amount under the Boxer's Welfare Fund under the GAB shall thereafter be transferred to the Boxers and Combatants Welfare Development Trust Fund of the Commission and shall form part of the initial appropriations of the Commission.

SECTION 21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* –

The Commission, in consultation with the Department of Health, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, PhilHealth, Social Security System, and other concerned agencies shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days upon its approval: *Provided*, that failure to promulgate the IRR shall not prevent the implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

SECTION 22. *Separability Clause.* – If any part of provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 23. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 7 of Executive Order No. 392, series of 1950, is hereby amended. Any other law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, rules or regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 24. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,