

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1524



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr. and
ELIZALDY S. CO

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS
BOARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to strengthen the Games and Amusement Board by expanding its regulatory powers and supervisory functions over professional sports, other allied activities, and other forms of amusement.

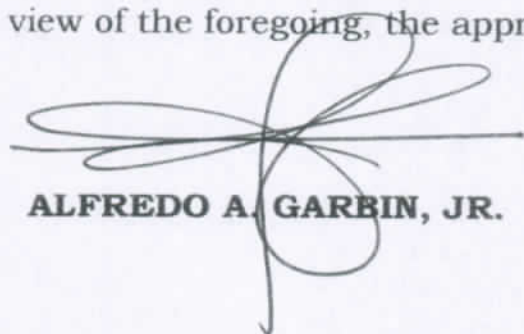
Created by virtue of Executive Order 120, S-1948, and further mandated with power and authority over several professional sports and activities pursuant to different statutes subsequently promulgated or enacted, the Games and Amusement Board continues to provide protection to the betting public against illegal betting or bookie joints, and other forms of organized illegal gambling, while ensuring that professional sports activities continue to be a stable source of revenue.

With the development of new forms of professional sports like the Mixed Martial Arts, together with new modes of betting made available through new technology, it is imperative that we enact measures to strengthen the powers and duties of the Games and Amusement Board so that it can continue to fulfill its mandate.

If enacted into law, this proposed measure will provide for an expanded powers and functions to the Games and Amusement Board which shall have the authority to enforce all laws relevant to professional sports, as well as a quasi-judicial power to settle questions, matters and controversies or disputes in connection to professional sports under its supervision. Additionally, the Board shall be mandated to have

regulatory and supervisory authority over other forms of amusement like beauty pageants and concerts, including maintenance of theme parks.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFREDO A. GARBIN, JR.



ELIZALDY S. CO

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:*

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Games and
Amusements Board Act”.

Section 2. *Definition of Terms.* – Whenever used in this Act, the following terms
shall have the respective meanings hereafter set forth:

- a. *Board* shall refer to the Games and Amusements Board;
- b. *Professional sports or competitions* shall be understood to mean individual or team sports, games, contests, bouts, tournaments or competitions, whereby the participating athletes are paid sums of money, or other forms of compensation, as salary or prizes for participation, or those that are conducted by promoters, operators, leagues, foundations or athletic organizations for profit, provided that competitions with gate entry fees, television coverage, paid advertisements or sponsors are presumed to be conducted for profit;
- c. *Professional athlete* shall refer to any natural person who is paid a sum of money or other equivalent compensation as a salary or prize money for participating, either as an individual or member of a team, in a game, bout, tournament or contest of professional sport;

- 1 d. *Professional boxer or wrestler* shall refer to a professional athlete
2 engaged in boxing or wrestling, respectively;
- 3 e. *Professional fighter* shall refer to a professional athlete engaged in
4 unarmed contact sports, other than boxing or wrestling, such as
5 mixed martial arts, thai boxing, muay thai and kickboxing;
- 6 f. *Purse*, shall mean the prize, percentage or other remuneration for
7 which boxing, wrestling or mixed martial arts contestants compete;
- 8 g. *Cockfighting* shall embrace and mean the commonly known game or
9 term "*cockfighting derby, pintakasi or tupada*", or its equivalent terms
10 in different Philippine localities;
- 11 h. *Jai-alai* or *basque pelota game* shall include the pelota game with the
12 use of pala, raqueta, cesta punta, remonte and mano, in which
13 professional players participate;
- 14 i. *Fronton* comprises the court where basque pelota games are played,
15 including the adjoining structures used in connection with such
16 games, such as the betting booths and galleries, totalizator
17 equipment, and the grandstands where the public is admitted in
18 connection with such games;
- 19 j. *Pelotari* is a professional player engaged in playing basque pelota;

20 **Section 3.** *Games and Amusements Board.* – Except as otherwise herein
21 provided, the Games and Amusements Board, created pursuant to Executive
22 Order No. 392 s. 1951, shall continue to exercise its mandate over professional
23 sports under Presidential Decree No. 871, boxing and wrestling under
24 Executive Order No. 120 s. 1948, betting on horseracing under Republic Act
25 No. 309, as amended, cockfighting under Presidential Decree No. 449 in
26 relation to Presidential Decree No. 1802, jai-alai or basque pelota games under
27 Executive Order No. 135 s. 1948, as amended, and anti-illegal gambling under
28 Administrative Order Nos. 262 s. 1992 and 222 s. 1995.

29 **Section 4.** *Composition.* – The Board shall be composed of a Chairman and two
30 (2) Commissioners to be appointed by the President and shall be under the
31 administrative supervision of the Executive Secretary.

CHAPTER II
PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Section 5. *Powers and duties over professional sports.* – The Board shall have the power to:

- a. Supervise and regulate all professional sports in the country including training exhibitions in connection therewith;
- b. Enforce all laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, relating to professional sports;
- c. Issue professional sports licenses for all professional athletes, officials, employees and persons connected with professional sports and collect fees therefor;
- d. To supervise the conduct of professional sports officials while in the performance of their duties as such;
- e. Issue permits for the holding of professional sports and collect fees therefor;
- f. Promulgate rules and regulations not inconsistent herewith to govern the operation and conduct of professional sports;
- g. Approve or disapprove the rules and regulations issued by persons, entities or associations relative to the operation and conduct of professional sports;
- h. Order the suspension or cancellation of any game in case of violation of law or non-compliance with the provisions of this act or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder;
- i. Order the suspension or cancellation of any game whenever such action is necessary for the best interest of the professional sports under the supervision of the Board;
- j. Consider, investigate, decide and settle all questions, matters, controversies or disputes arising out of or connected with professional sports under its supervision in accordance with the rules and procedures it may adopt;

1 k. Summon parties, issue subpoena or require the production of such
2 books, papers, contracts, records or other documents as may be
3 necessary for the just determination and adjudication of any matter
4 under investigation;

5 l. Designate any of its officers to conduct hearing or investigation of any
6 case pending before it in the exercise of its quasi judicial powers
7 under this Act;

8 m. Cooperate with local and international professional sports
9 organizations and attend relevant sports conventions, competitions
10 and events;

11 n. Cooperate with organizations engaged in the promotion and control of
12 amateur and collegiate sports;

13 o. Appoint personnel as it shall deem necessary in the exercise and
14 performance of its powers and duties and fix their salaries or
15 compensation, and/or to employ the services by contract or
16 otherwise, consultant or any local or foreign expert or technical
17 personnel to provide technical and necessary assistance, conduct
18 seminars and training relative to professional sports and pay
19 reasonable emoluments for their services;

20 p. Inspect the books, records and accounts of any person, entity or
21 association conducting or authorized to conduct professional sports
22 and require that the books and financial or other statement of such
23 person, entity or association shall be kept in such manner as it may
24 prescribe;

25 q. Perform such other duties and exercise all other powers incidental or
26 necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the Board and proper
27 enforcement of the provision of this Act.

28 **Section 6. License.** – No professional athlete or professional sports official,
29 regardless of nationality and residence, shall be allowed to engage in
30 professional sports in the country, whether on a regular, seasonal or one-time
31 basis, without first obtaining the appropriate professional license from the
32 Board. Such license may be suspended or revoked in any case where the Board
33 shall have reason to believe that any of the aforesaid persons is guilty of any

1 dishonest or fraudulent practice, or has violated any law, decree, executive
2 order, rule or regulation on professional sports, or for any just cause.

3 No person, entity or association shall employ or enter in a contract with any
4 professional athlete or sports official for the conduct of professional sports
5 without such athlete or sports official having been duly licensed by the Board.

6 **Section 7. Qualifications.** – The Board shall, by regulation, prescribe the
7 qualifications and requisites which each applicant for a license shall possess.
8 All professional athletes shall be examined by a Board's physician, or his duly
9 authorized representative, who shall certify to both the applicant's physical and
10 mental fitness for competition before he is granted a license.

11 **Section 8. Permit.** – It shall be unlawful for any person, entity or association
12 to conduct professional sports without permit duly issued by the Board. Every
13 permit issued shall specify the person, entity or association to which it was
14 issued, the place where and the date when the games are to be held.

15 **Section 9. Assignment of sports officials.** – At each professional sport, the
16 Board shall assign among the duly licensed professional sports officials the
17 referees, timekeepers, scorers and other officials to officiate thereat and only
18 the officials so designated shall have authority to perform their respective
19 functions.

20 **Section 10. Duty of person, entity or association conducting professional**
21 *games.* – It shall be the duty of the person, entity or association conducting
22 professional sports, to see that peace and order is maintained in the premises
23 of the place where the games are being conducted and that the rules and
24 regulations governing the same are properly observed.

25 **Section 11. Admission receipts and other income.** – The Board shall, through
26 its duly authorized representatives, supervise the sale of admission tickets for
27 any professional sport. All tickets, except complimentary tickets, shall state the
28 price, name of person, entity or association conducting the professional sports,
29 team names and the date of the games printed plainly thereon. No ticket shall
30 be sold for more than the price as printed thereon and any change in ticket
31 prices or the date of the games shall be subject to the approval of the Board.

32 **Section 12. Government share.** – Any person, entity or association conducting
33 professional sports shall set aside and remit to the Board three per cent (3%) of

1 the gross gate receipts and income from television, radio and motion picture
2 rights if any, which shall be available to defray the expenses of the personnel of
3 the Board assigned to supervise the games and for such other expenses in
4 other activities of the Board.

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

14 **CHAPTER III**

15 **PROFESSIONAL BOXING AND OTHER CONTACT SPORTS**

16 **Section 14. *Powers and duties relative to boxing and other contact sports.***– All
17 professional boxing and other contact sports in the Philippines shall be under
18 the supervision and regulation of the Board. The provisions of Sections 5, 6, 7,
19 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 shall apply to boxing and other contact sports.

20 **Section 15.** The Board shall implement the appropriate measures to be
21 undertaken before, during and after each fight to ensure the safety of all
22 boxers, wrestlers and fighters.

23 **Section 16.** In addition to medical tests required of professional athletes, the
24 Board shall require regular Computed Tomography Scan (CT Scan) of the
25 brain and where necessary, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) or such other
26 additional tests as the Board may in its discretion hereafter require.

27 **Section 17.** All government hospitals, laboratories, clinics and medical
28 installations catering to the public shall provide free annual CT Scans of the
29 brain to indigent boxers, wrestlers and fighters, upon proper certification by
30 the Board.

31 **Section 18. *Age of contestants.***– No contestants under the age of eighteen (18)
32 years shall be licensed as a professional boxer, wrestler or fighter. The Board
33 may, under exceptional circumstances, allow a minor to apply for a license and

1 participate in a professional boxing, wrestling or mixed martial arts match
2 upon written consent of his parents or in the absence thereof, his court
3 appointed legal guardian.

4 **Section 19. *Persons prohibited admission.***-Persons under sixteen (16) years of
5 age, persons carrying firearms or deadly weapons of any description except
6 government officials performing their official duties, intoxicated persons, and
7 persons of disorderly nature and conduct who are apt to disturb peace and
8 order, shall not be admitted or allowed to remain in and around the premises
9 of the place where boxing and/or wrestling contest or exhibition is being
10 conducted: *Provided*, That persons under sixteen (16) years of age may, when
11 accompanied by any of their parents or court appointed guardians, be admitted
12 therein.

13 **Section 20. *Licensed physician.***- It shall be the duty of every promoter or
14 person or entity conducting boxing or wrestling contests or exhibitions to have
15 in attendance at every such contest or exhibition at his or its own expense, a
16 licensed physician who has had not less than three years' medical practice,
17 whose duty shall be to observe the physical condition of the boxers and
18 wrestlers and advise the referees with regard thereto, and one hour before the
19 contestants enter the ring, to certify in writing to the Board or its
20 representative as to the contestants' physical condition to engage in the contest
21 or exhibition.

22 **Section 21. *Rest Period.***-All boxers, wrestlers or fighters who participated in a
23 fight, bout, contest or exhibition shall be required to observe mandatory rest
24 period before they may be allowed to compete again.

25 The mandatory rest periods shall be at least thirty (30) days: *Provided*, That if
26 boxer suffered a knockout (KO) or technical knockout (TKO) as a result of a
27 body punch, he/she is required to rest for a minimum of sixty (60) days:
28 *Provided further*, That if the KO or TKO is a result of a head punch, he/she
29 shall rest for a minimum of ninety (90) days: *Provided finally*, That the rest
30 period may be extended when the boxer sustained heavy punching or on other
31 instances as the Board may deem fit upon recommendation of the licensed
32 physician on duty.

33 **Section 22. *Foreign Travel.***-Boxers, wrestlers or fighters and their
34 accompanying managers, trainers, promoters, or their duly authorized

1 representatives who will travel to, and participate in any foreign boxing
2 promotion abroad shall secure from the Board an authority or clearance to
3 travel and fight abroad: Provided, That only boxers who are rated according to
4 the Board's rating system shall be permitted or authorized to fight abroad:
5 Provided further, That a boxer requesting to be a sparring partner for
6 international fight should be an active 10 rounder.

7 **Section 23.** *Sham, fake or fraudulent boxing or wrestling contests or*
8 *exhibitions.*-Any promoter or entity conducting or participating in any sham,
9 fake or fraudulent boxing or wrestling contest or exhibition shall thereby have
10 his or its license revoked by the Board; and such promoter or entity shall not
11 thereafter be entitled to receive another such license.

12 **Section 24.** *Must file surety bond to guarantee ticket holders.*-Any promoter or
13 entity applying for boxing or wrestling license must furnish a surety bond to
14 the Board in an amount equivalent to twenty-five per centum (25%) of the total
15 estimate of receipts from the full seating capacity of the building, stadium or
16 structure wherein the contest or exhibition is to be held. This surety bond is to
17 be conditioned for the payment to the Board in any of the following cases.

18 a. In case of failure to hold the main event contest upon the date
19 advertised unless the same is thereafter held at a postponed date with
20 the consent of the Board or its representative; and
21

22 b. In case of failure to hold said main event contest at any subsequent
23 date fixed by the Board or its representative for the holding thereof.
24 The amount represented by said bond shall be payable within fifteen
25 days after default to insure reimbursement to the purchasers of
26 tickets for such contest or exhibition.

27 **Section 25.** *Must file fifteen per cent bond to guarantee payment of boxers,*
28 *wrestlers, officials, etc.*-Any promoter or entity applying for a boxing or
29 wrestling license must furnish an additional surety bond to the Board in an
30 amount equivalent to *fifteen per centum (15%)* of the total estimate of receipts
31 from the full seating capacity of the building, stadium or structure wherein the
32 contest or exhibition is to be held, to guarantee the payment of the services of
33 boxers, wrestlers, referees, judges, physician, time-keeper, announcer, and
34 other persons entitled to such payment as may be determined by the Board.

1 **Section 26.** *Contracts between promoters, etc., and boxers and wrestlers.* The
2 Board or its representative shall be furnished by the parties concerned with a
3 copy of all contracts between promoters or other persons or entities conducting
4 boxing or wrestling contests or exhibitions, and boxers or wrestlers, their
5 managers, and other persons who officiate at such contests or exhibitions.
6 Such copy of the contract shall be filed with the office of the Board or its
7 representative at least seven days before the contest or exhibition to which the
8 contract relates. If two or more promoters or entities file disputed claims on the
9 services of a boxer or wrestler, the boxer or wrestler concerned shall be
10 automatically suspended until such claims have been adjusted or legally
11 adjudicated.

12 **Section 27.** *Payment of contestants.* Payment of purses of contestants shall be
13 made immediately after the contest or exhibition, or, in case of a percentage
14 contract, immediately after the percentage is determined by the auditor of the
15 Board. The promoter or entity conducting the boxing or wrestling contest or
16 exhibition shall pay, in cash or check, all parties entitled to payment for
17 services in the presence of an auditor of the Board. The promoter or entity
18 concerned shall take a receipt for all payments made and give a copy of such
19 receipt to the representative of the Board.

20 **Section 28.** *Boxer's Welfare Fund.* A boxer's welfare fund shall be established
21 and managed by the Board for the benefit of boxers who sustained injury or
22 died in the exercise of their profession, or in such other cases as the Board
23 may deem fit, *unless* the disability or death is a result of an unauthorized or
24 illegal boxing contest.

25 It shall be mandatory for all professional boxers to contribute and remit to the
26 fund an amount equivalent to 1% of their purse for each fight, but in no case
27 shall it exceed P10,000.00. The fund may also include donations and/or
28 proceeds of fund raising activities as the Board may authorize.

29 A boxer who suffers permanent partial disability shall be entitled to at least
30 P5,000.00 for his/her medical expenses. Permanent partial disability shall
31 include loss of sight, either one or both eyes, permanent broken arm, knuckles,
32 legs and feet, and other body extremities, and such other injuries as may be
33 determined by the Board.

1 A boxer who suffers total disability shall be entitled to at least P10,000.00 for
2 his/her medical expenses. Total disability shall include brain injury resulting
3 in incurable imbecility, insanity, or other irreversible conditions, permanent
4 complete paralysis, and such other injuries as may be determined by the
5 Board.

6 A boxer who died in the course of or due to the injuries he/she suffered in the
7 lawful exercise of his/her boxing profession shall be entitled to P15,000.00 as
8 burial assistance: Provided, That the Board, in its discretion, may extend
9 additional financial support subject to availability of funds.

10 No double recovery for one and the same injury or incident shall be allowed. A
11 boxer who died due to injury shall receive only the death benefit hereunder:
12 Provided, however, That a boxer who suffered disabilities and who
13 subsequently died shall be entitled to death benefits in addition to the benefits
14 received for his/her disabilities.

15 A written notice of sickness, injury, or death shall be filed with the Board by
16 the boxer or his/her immediate family within seven (7) working days from the
17 date of the occurrence of the contingency.

18 The Board shall release the fund to the boxer or his/her immediate family
19 within three (3) working days after the period of verification: Provided, That the
20 Board shall prioritize the release of the fund with due consideration of the
21 urgency, extent or gravity of injury, need and the like.

22 The benefits received herein shall be separate and distinct from, and shall in
23 no case affect the obligations of the promoter or manager to answer for the
24 medical or other expenses of the boxer.

26 CHAPTER IV

27 BETTING ON HORSERACING

28 **Section 29.** *Powers and duties relative to horseracing.*- The betting aspect of
29 horseracing shall be under the exclusive supervision of the Board while all
30 other aspects of the conduct of horse-racing, including the framing and
31 scheduling of races, the construction and safety of race tracks, the allocation of
32 prizes, and the security of racing, shall be under the Philippine Racing
33 Commission pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 420.

1 **Section 30. *Records of tickets sold.*** — No person, race-track, racing club, nor
2 any other entity holding horse-races the crossings of which on any race day
3 exceed fifty thousand pesos, shall be allowed to hold races, unless such
4 person, race-track, racing club, or entity is provided with an automatic,
5 electrically-operated public indicator system and ticket-selling machines, by
6 means of which every ticket purchased on every horse in any race, shall be
7 automatically and instantaneously recorded by electrical impulse on a
8 prominently-displayed bulletin board, each figure, letter, or symbol of which
9 shall be readable from a distance.

10 **Section 31. *Track auditors and checkers.*** — For the purpose of supervising
11 and verifying the accuracy of reports of any person, race-track, racing club, or
12 any other entity holding races, with respect to the totalizator receipt or the total
13 amount of wager made on each racing event, the dividends awarded for
14 winning horses, whether win, place, or show on each event, and other matters
15 referring to the financial computations or statements, the Board shall appoint
16 such number of auditing officers and checkers as may be necessary to be
17 placed in the offices and tracks of the person, race-track, racing club, or entity
18 concerned. It shall be the duty of said auditing officers and checkers to report
19 to the Board any irregularities or erroneous computations, which they may
20 discover in connection with reports on the totalizator sales or the total sales of
21 wager tickets, or the dividends awarded on each racing event.

22 **Section 32. *Betting.*** — The face-value of totalizator tickets for wager may be
23 one peso, two pesos or five pesos, whether for win, place, or show. The face-
24 value of said tickets, as the case may be, shall be the basis for the computation
25 of dividends, and such dividends shall be paid after eliminating fractions of ten
26 centavos: for example, if the resulting dividend is ten pesos and ninety-eight
27 centavos, the dividend that shall be paid will be only ten pesos and ninety
28 centavos. If no ticket has been sold on a winning horse, whether for win, place
29 or show, the dividends corresponding to such race shall be paid out to the
30 holders of tickets sold on the horses that finished dead heat, or on the horse
31 that finished next to that on which not a single ticket was sold: Provided, That
32 the owner of said winning horse shall be entitled to the corresponding stake or
33 prize.

34 **Section 33. *Persons prohibited from betting.*** — Racing clubs, race-tracks,
35 persons or entities holding horse-races, and their officials, including stewards,
36 judges, handicappers, jockeys and starters shall not be permitted to participate

1 directly or indirectly, in the betting on races conducted in their own race-
2 tracks; and members of the Board, including officials and employees of such
3 Board, on any race.

4 **Section 34.** *Persons prohibited admission.* — Minors under eighteen years of
5 age, except when accompanied by their parents or guardians, persons carrying
6 deadly weapons or firearms of any description, except peace officers or officials
7 of the race-track or racing club or of the Board, in the performance of their
8 official functions, and intoxicated persons, shall not be admitted or allowed to
9 remain in a race-track during a racing day. Minors shall in no case be allowed
10 to bet or to purchase wager tickets for others; and minors under fifteen years of
11 age shall in no case be allowed admission in any race track.

12 **Section 35.** *Hour of running daily-double races; posting of ticket sales.* — The
13 time for the running of the first race of any daily-double event shall be
14 determined by the Board depending upon the circumstances surrounding each
15 racing-day which shall be announced to the public by the person, race-track,
16 racing club, or entity holding the races through loudspeakers at the time of the
17 selection of the races constituting the daily-double event, and the second race
18 thereof shall be run not later than forty-five minutes after the first race. The
19 sale of tickets for the daily-double races shall be allowed after the Board or its
20 authorized representatives has announced to the public the two races
21 constituting each daily-double event. The number of tickets sold on each horse
22 in the two races of each daily-double event and the totals thereof shall be
23 posted at conspicuous bulletin boards. This information shall also be given to
24 the public through loudspeakers. The closing of the sale of tickets for each
25 event shall be properly announced by the ringing of a bell after which no more
26 tickets shall be sold.

27 **Section 36.** *Distribution of receipts.* — The total wager funds or gross receipts
28 from the sale of pari-mutuel tickets shall be apportioned as follows: eighty-
29 seven and one-half per centum shall be distributed in the form of dividends
30 among holders of win, place and show horses, as the case may be, in the
31 regular races; twelve and one-half per centum shall be set aside as the
32 commission of the person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity
33 conducting the races, which shall include the amounts for the payment of
34 authorized stakes or prizes for win, place and show horses, and authorized
35 bonuses for jockeys; and in the case of daily-double races, the gross receipts
36 derived from the total sale of daily-double tickets shall be apportioned in the

1 same manner as provided hereinabove, except that the eighty-seven and one-
2 half per centum of the gross receipts from the total sale of daily-double tickets
3 shall be distributed in the form of dividends among the holders of the winning
4 combination of horses, that is, the two horses that won first place in the two
5 races, instead of among holders of win, place and show horses, as in the case
6 of regular races: Provided, however, That of the twelve and one-half per
7 centum representing the commission of the person, race-track, racing club, or
8 any other entity holding horse-racing an amount equivalent to one-half per
9 centum of the total wager funds or gross receipts from the sale of tickets shall
10 be set aside and turned over by the person, race-track, racing club, or any
11 other entity holding horse-racing as a special fund to the Board to cover its
12 expenses and such other purposes authorized under this Act. Any unexpended
13 balance of this fund at the end of each year in excess of ten thousand pesos
14 shall be turned over to the Bureau of Animal Industry to be used by the latter
15 exclusively for the promotion of horse-breeding in the Philippines.

16 **Section 37.** *Books, records and accounts.* — The Board or its duly authorized
17 representative shall have the power to inspect at all times the books, records
18 and accounts of any person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity holding
19 horse-racing. It may require that the books and financial or other statements of
20 such person, race-track, racing club, or other entity holding horse-racing shall
21 be kept in such manner as it may prescribe.

22 **Section 38.** *Unclaimed Dividends.* — All winning prizes or dividends unclaimed
23 by the winners within sixty (60) days from the date of the race shall be forfeited
24 in favor of the government.

25

26 CHAPTER V

27 COCKFIGHTING

28 **Section 39.** *Powers and Functions relative to Cockfighting.* — Except as
29 otherwise devolved to the local governments pursuant to the Local Government
30 Code, the supervision, regulation, and control of all aspects of cockfighting
31 shall be under the Board. The Board shall have the power to:

- 32 a. To promulgate rules and regulations relative to the holding, methods,
33 procedures, operations and conduct of cockfighting in general as well

1 as accreditation of cockpit personnel and association of cockpit
2 owners, operators and lessees, to elevate the standard of cockfighting;

3 b. To establish uniform rules and regulations to govern actual
4 cockfighting enforceable in all cockpits in the Philippines and to
5 provide sanctions for violations thereof;

6 c. To supervise and regulate the conduct of international derbies and to
7 collect fees therefor;

8 d. To supervise and regulate the livestreaming or broadcasting of
9 cockfights and to collect fees therefor;

10 e. Prescribe policy guidelines for the issuance of permits by the Bureau
11 of Animals Industry for the importation or entry of gamecocks into the
12 country for breeding or competition purposes;

13 f. To promulgate its own rules and procedures relative to the conduct of
14 its own business;

15 g. To deputize any government office, entity, agency and public officer in
16 the implementation of all laws, decrees, letters of instructions, general
17 orders pertinent to cockfighting and rules and regulations issued by
18 the Board;

19 h. To initiate, undertake, hear and decide any investigation for any
20 violation of this Decree, rules and regulations of the Board and in
21 connection therewith, to issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum;

22 i. To establish regional offices in such number and location as it will
23 allow it to perform the duties stated herein;

24 j. To perform such other functions as may be authorized by law.

25 **Section 40. Cockpits and Cockfighting. —** In General:

26 a. *Ownership, Operation and Management of Cockpits.* Only Filipino
27 citizens not otherwise inhibited by existing laws shall be allowed to
28 own, manage and operate cockpits. Cooperative capitalization is
29 encouraged.

30 b. *Establishment of Cockpits.* Only one cockpit shall be allowed in each
31 city or municipality, except that in cities or municipalities with a

1 population of over one hundred thousand, two cockpits may be
2 established, maintained and operated.

3 c. *Cockpits Site and Construction.* Cockpits shall be constructed and
4 operated within the appropriate areas as prescribed in Zoning Law or
5 Ordinance. In the absence of such law or ordinance, the local
6 executives shall see to it that no cockpits are constructed within or
7 near existing residential or commercial areas, hospitals, school
8 buildings, churches or other public buildings. Owners, lessees, or
9 operators of cockpits which are now in existence and do not conform
10 to this requirement are given three years from the date of effectivity of
11 this Act to comply herewith. Approval or issuance of building permits
12 for the construction of cockpits shall be made by the city or provincial
13 engineer in accordance with their respective building codes,
14 ordinances or engineering laws and practices;

15 d. *Holding of Cockfights.* Cockfighting shall be allowed only in licensed
16 cockpits during Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays and
17 during local fiestas for not more than three days. It may also be held
18 during provincial, city or municipal, agricultural, commercial or
19 industrial fair, carnival or exposition for a similar period of three days
20 upon resolution of the province, city or municipality where such fair,
21 carnival or exposition is to be held, Provided, further, that no
22 cockfighting shall be held on December 30 (Rizal Day), June 12
23 (Philippine Independence Day) November 30 (National Heroes Day),
24 Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Election or Referendum Day and during
25 Registration Days for such election or referendum.

26 e. *Other games during cockfights proscribed.* No gambling of any kind
27 shall be permitted on the premises of the cockpit or place of
28 cockfighting during cockfights. The owner, manager or lessee off such
29 cockpit and the violators of this injunction shall be criminally liable.

30 **Section 41. Cockfighting Officials.** — Gaffers, referees or bet takers or
31 promoters shall not act as such in any cockfight herein authorized, without
32 first securing a license renewable every year on their birth month from the city
33 or municipality where such cockfighting is held. The Board shall maintain a
34 register of all such gaffers, referees or bet takers.

Section 42. For each cockfighting event, there shall be collected from the cockpit operator an amount equivalent to 3% of all gate receipts collected at the entrance gates. The cockpit operator shall also pay the equivalent of 3% of all *plazada* it collects from every cockfight.

Section 43. Every operator engaged in the livestreaming or broadcasting of cockfight shall pay to GAB the equivalent of 3% of gross bets made in authorized off-cockpit betting stations or through internet betting.

CHAPTER VI

JAI ALAI

Section 44. *Powers and Functions relative to jai-alai.* — The Board shall have the power to:

- a. The Board shall exercise supervision over the establishment, maintenance and operation of frontons and basque pelota games by entities with the appropriate franchise;
- b. Promulgate rules and regulations relative to the holding, methods, procedures, operations and conduct of jai-alai;
- c. License pelotaris and all jai-alai personnel;
- d. To supervise and regulate the livestreaming or broadcasting of jai-alai games and to collect fees therefor;
- e. To promulgate its own rules and procedures relative to the conduct of its own business;
- f. To deputize any government office, entity, agency and public officer in the implementation of all laws, decrees, letters of instructions, general orders pertinent to jai-alai and rules and regulations issued by the Board;
- g. To initiate, undertake, hear and decide any investigation for any violation of this act, rules and regulations of the Board and in connection therewith, to issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum and ad testificandum;

1 h. To perform such duties and exercise such powers as may be
2 necessary or incidental to achieve the objectives of this Act;

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

4 **Section 45.** *Buildings, sanitary and parking requirements.* — No permit or
5 license for the construction or operation of a basque pelota fronton shall be
6 issued without proper certificate of the provincial or city engineer and architect
7 certifying to the suitability and safety of the building and of the district or city
8 health officer certifying to the sanitary condition of said building. The city or
9 municipal mayor may, in his discretion and as circumstances may warrant,
10 require that the fronton be provided with sufficient space for parking so that
11 the public roads and highways be not used for such purposes.

12 **Section 46.** *Protest and complaint.* — Any person who believes that any basque
13 pelota fronton is located or established in any place not authorized herein or is
14 being operated in violation of any provision of this Order may file a protest or
15 complaint with the city or municipal mayor concerned, and after proper
16 investigation of such complaint the city or municipal mayor may take such
17 action as he may consider necessary. Any decision rendered on the matter by
18 the city or municipal mayor shall be appealable to the Secretary of the Interior.

19 **Section 47.** *Persons prohibited admission.* — Persons under 16 years of age,
20 persons carrying firearms or deadly weapons of any description, except
21 government officials actually performing their official duties therein, intoxicated
22 persons, and persons of disorderly nature and conduct who are apt to disturb
23 peace and order, shall not be admitted or allowed in any basque pelota fronton:
24 *Provided,* That persons under 16 years of age may, when accompanied by their
25 parents or guardians, be admitted therein but in no case shall such minors be
26 allowed to bet.

27 **Section 48.** *Gambling prohibited.* — No card games or any of the prohibited
28 games shall be permitted within the premises of any basque pelota fronton;
29 and upon satisfactory evidence that the operator or entity conducting the game
30 has tolerated the existence of any prohibited game within its premises, the city
31 or municipal mayor may take the necessary action.

32 **Section 49.** *Revocation or suspension of permits and licenses.* — The city or
33 municipal mayor, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior and
34 Local Government, may suspend or revoke any license granted under this Act

1 to any basque pelota fronton or to any official or employee thereof, for violation
2 of any of the rules and regulations provided in this Order or those which said
3 city or municipal mayor may prescribe, or for any just cause. Such suspension
4 or revocation shall operate to forfeit to the city or municipality concerned all
5 sums paid therefor.

6 **Section 50.** *Books, records and accounts.* — The Board, or his duly authorized
7 representative, shall have the power to inspect at all times the books, records,
8 and accounts of any basque pelota fronton. He may, in his discretion and as
9 the circumstances may warrant, require that the books and financial or other
10 statements of the person or entity operating the game be kept in such manner
11 as he may prescribe.

12 **Section 51.** *Pelotaris, judges, referees, etc. shall be licensed.* — No person or
13 entity operating a basque pelota fronton, wherein games are played with
14 betting, shall employ any pelotari, judge or referee, superintendent of games
15 (intendente), or any other official whose duties are connected with the
16 operation or supervision of the games, unless such person has been duly
17 licensed by the city or municipal mayor concerned. Such license shall be
18 granted upon satisfactory proof that the applicant is in good health, knows the
19 rules and usages of the game, and is a person of good moral character and of
20 undoubted honesty. In the case of pelotaris, such license shall be granted only
21 upon the further condition that they are able to play the game with reasonable
22 skill and with safety to themselves and to their opponents. The city or
23 municipal mayor may further require other reasonable qualifications for
24 applicants to a license, not otherwise provided herein. Such license shall be
25 obtained yearly.

26 **Section 52.** *Installation of automatic electric totalizator.* — Any person or entity
27 operating a fronton wherein betting in any form is allowed shall install in its
28 premises within the period of one year from the date this Order takes effect, an
29 automatic electrically operated indicator system and ticket selling machine,
30 commonly known as totalizator, which shall clearly record each ticket
31 purchased on every player in any game, the total number of tickets sold on
32 each event, as well as the dividends that correspond to holders of winning
33 numbers. This requirement shall, however, not apply to double events or
34 forecast pools or to any betting made on the basis of a combination or grouping
35 of players until a totalizator that can register such bets has been invented and
36 placed on the market.

1 **Section 53.** *Supervision over sale of betting tickets and payment of dividends.*

2 — For the purpose of verifying the accuracy of reports in connection with the
3 sale of betting tickets and the computation of dividends awarded to winners on
4 each event, as well as other statements with reference to the betting in the
5 games played, the city or municipal mayor shall assign such number of
6 auditing officers and checkers as may be necessary for the purpose. These
7 auditing officers and checkers shall be placed in the ticket selling booths,
8 dividend computation booths and such other parts of the fronton, where
9 betting tickets are sold and dividends computed. It shall be their duty to check
10 up and correct any irregularity or any erroneous report or computation that
11 may be made by officials of the fronton, in connection with the sale of tickets
12 and the payment of dividends.

13 **Section 54.** *Wager tickets and dividends.* — The face value of the wager tickets
14 for any event shall not exceed P5 whether for “win” or “place”, or for any
15 combination or grouping of winning numbers. The face value of said tickets, as
16 the case may be, shall be the basis for the computation of the dividends and
17 such dividends shall be paid after eliminating fractions of ten centavos (P0.10);
18 for example: if the resulting dividend is P10.43, the dividend that shall be paid
19 will be only P10.40.

20 **Section 55.** *Distribution of wager funds.* — The total wager funds or gross
21 receipts from the sale of the betting tickets shall be apportioned as follows: a
22 commission not exceeding ten and one-half per centum (10 ½ %) on the total
23 bets on each game or event shall be set aside for the person or entity operating
24 the fronton and four and one-half per centum (4 ½ %) of such bets shall be
25 covered into the National Treasury for disposition as may be authorized by law
26 or executive order; and the balance or eighty-five per centum (85%) of the total
27 bets shall be distributed in the form of dividends among holders of “win” or
28 “place” numbers or holders of the winning combination or grouping of
29 numbers, as the case may be: *Provided, however,* That of the ten and one-half
30 per centum (10 ½ %) representing the commission of the person or entity
31 operating the fronton, an amount equivalent to one-half per centum (14%) of
32 the total bets or wager funds shall be set aside and made available to cover the
33 expenses of the personnel assigned to supervise the operation of basque pelota
34 games and frontons, including payment of salaries of such personnel, purchase
35 of necessary equipment and other sundry expenses as may be authorized by
36 competent authority.

1 **Section 56.** *Supervision over the conduct of games; enforcement of rules and*
2 *regulations.* — The city or municipal mayor is authorized to place within the
3 premises of the fronton such number of inspectors and agents as may be
4 deemed necessary to supervise the conduct of the games, to see that the rules
5 of the games are strictly enforced, and to carry out the provisions of this Order
6 as well as such other regulations as may hereafter be prescribed.

7 **Section 57.** *Rules governing the games and personnel of the fronton.* — The
8 rules and regulations that have been adopted by any fronton to govern the
9 operation of its games and the behavior, duties and performance of the officials
10 and personnel connected therewith, such as pelotaris, judges, referees or
11 superintendents of games (intendentes) and others, shall be the recognized
12 rules and regulations of such fronton until the same are altered or repealed by
13 the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government; and any fronton may
14 introduce any type or form of games or events, provided they are not contrary
15 to the provisions of this Order or any rule or regulation hereafter issued by the
16 Secretary of the Interior and Local Government.

17 **Section 58.** *Regulations governing pelotaris.* — Any rule or regulation adopted
18 by any established fronton governing the conduct or performance of pelotaris to
19 the contrary notwithstanding, the following regulations shall be observed:

- 20 a. The pelotaris who are participating in the games shall not be allowed
21 to communicate, talk or make signs with anyone in the public or with
22 any official or employee of the fronton during the games, except with
23 the judges or referees or the superintendent (intendente) in charge of
24 the games;
- 25 b. The program of games or events, as well as the line-up or order of
26 playing of the pelotaris in each event shall be determined by the
27 superintendent of the games (intendente), subject to the approval of
28 the city or municipal mayor, or his authorized representatives;
- 29 c. Pelotaris shall be in good physical condition before participating in
30 any game and shall be laid off from playing at least two days in a
31 week. Every pelotari shall once a month secure a medical certificate
32 from a government physician to be designated by the city or municipal
33 mayor concerned certifying to his physical fitness to engage in the
34 games; and

d. The amount of dividends computed for any event shall not be posted within the view of the pelotaris participating in the event until after the termination of said event.

CHAPTER VII

OTHER FORMS OF AMUSEMENTS

Section 59. Supervision and regulation. - The supervision and regulation of actors or actresses in theatre, television, film, radio or any other medium for purposes of amusement, the conduct of beauty pageants and concerts and the maintenance of theme parks shall be vested in the Board.

Section 60. Collection of fees. - The Board shall license persons or entities engaged in other forms of amusements, issue permits for the conduct and/or maintenance thereof and collect fees therefor.

CHAPTER VIII

ANTI -ILLEGAL GAMBLING UNIT

Section 61. Composition. - There shall be created an Anti -Illegal Gambling Unit (AIGU) attached to the Board 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 following:

- a. Organic Personnel to be appointed by the Chairman of the Board;
- b. Detailed Personnel to be drawn from the following:
 - b.1. Philippine National Police;
 - b.2. National Bureau of Investigation;
 - b.3. Philippine Racing Commission;
 - b.4. Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office;
 - b.5. Other Agencies involved in Gaming Operations;

b.6. Other Law enforcement Agencies of the Government.

Section 62. Powers, Duties and Functions. – In addition to its existing powers and functions, the GAB -AIGU shall monitor the status of arrests made to ensure that the suspects are criminally prosecuted. The Chairman of the Board shall submit a quarterly report on the operations of the GAB -AIGU to the Executive Secretary.

CHAPTER IX

FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 63. Appeals. Any action taken by the Board may be appealed to the Office of the President whose decision shall be final.

Section 64. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Board shall, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

Section 65. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 66. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 67. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,