

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1962



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Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**  
**HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Our professional athletes risk lives and limbs in order to give honor and glory to the motherland. They often forego employment opportunities to practice and perfect their craft in the hope that they can one day win that coveted Championship on international sports competition and make us proud to be Filipinos. When they win, they receive our praise, exultation and collective adulation at least while they remain champions and winners. When their reign is over, they often find themselves alone, abandoned and without any viable means to support themselves and their families.

It is a sad reality but we often see Filipino world champions and sporting heroes suffer and even die penniless after their heydays. Clearly, something has to be done to help those who have brought us honor and glory to at least have a decent life after their glory days. Champions are champions. They deserve something better than a mere pat in the back or the short-lived adulation of his countrymen.

This bill, therefore, seeks to grant financial benefits to our prized athletes in the form of retirement pensions, health care and death benefit. Admittedly, even the benefits proposed in this bill are at best modest and inadequate compared to the sacrifices and hardships our athletes had to endure for our country but at least the same will signify and symbolize our collective expression of gratitude for the honor and glory they have brought our country. The same represent a starting point in the continuing effort to look after the welfare and interest of our professional athletes.

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

  
**MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III**  
*Representative*  
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT

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

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

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Professional Filipino*  
2       *Athletes Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2016.*"

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

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

- 12  
13       a. Board - shall refer to the Games and Amusement Board (GAB);  
14  
15       b. Filipino Athlete - shall refer to professional athletes who are citizens of the  
16       Philippines, except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of R.A. No. 9225  
17       otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003";  
18  
19       c. International Professional Sports Competitions - shall refer to international  
20       bodies that are recognized, accredited and have a mutual working relationship,  
21       agreement, and/or memorandum of understanding with the Board;  
22  
23       d. International Sporting Organizations - shall refer to international bodies that are  
24       recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship, agreement,  
25       and/or memorandum of understanding with the Board;  
26

- 1 e. Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games - shall refer to other  
2 international professional sports competitions that confer the same rank or stature  
3 as world championship titles and are recognized as such by the Board;  
4
- 5 f. Primary Beneficiaries - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the legitimate  
6 spouse and legitimate or illegitimate children;  
7
- 8 g. Professional Athlete - shall refer to any natural person who is paid a sum of  
9 money or other equivalent compensation as a salary or prize money for  
10 participating in a game, bout, tournament or contest of professional sport, either  
11 as an individual contestant or a member of a team, under a contract entered into  
12 with a professional sports promoter/operator or team owner and licensed by the  
13 Board;  
14
- 15 h. Professional Sports - shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest,  
16 bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums  
17 of money or other forms of compensation as regular salary or prize for  
18 participation, which are accredited and/or recognized by the Board; and  
19
- 20 i. Secondary beneficiaries - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the parents, and  
21 in their absence, to the brothers or sister of professional athletes.  
22

23 **CHAPTER II**  
24 **RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS**  
25

26 **SEC. 4. *Retirement Benefits.*** - Professional Filipino Athletes, as defined under this  
27 Act, who win in international professional sports competitions shall, upon reaching the age of  
28 fifty (50), receive the following retirement benefits:  
29

- 30 a. For Individual Events - a lifetime monthly pension of at least Fifteen Thousand Pesos  
31 (Php 15,000.00) for the individual winner; or  
32
- 33 b. For Team Events - a lifetime monthly pension of at last Ten Thousand Pesos  
34 (Php10,000.00) for each team member:*Provided*, That for athletes who win in  
35 individual and team events, the retirement benefits for individual events shall apply.  
36

37 Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of fifty (50) and  
38 have availed of the retirement benefits under this Act may continue with such  
39 employment:*Provided*, That the retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and  
40 distinct from the mandatory retirement benefits provided by existing laws or pursuant to  
41 existing company policies.  
42

43 **SEC. 5. *Health Care Benefits.***- Immediately upon winning in any international  
44 professional sports competitions, Professional Filipino Athletes shall be covered by the  
45 National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation  
46 (PhilHealth), through a special program sponsored by the Board, which will provide the  
47 required local government premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PhilHealth.  
48 Upon reaching the age of fifty (50), the athlete shall continue to be a member of the program,  
49 subject to existing rules and .regulation of the PhilHealth.  
50

1 In case of hospitalization of the Professional Filipino athlete in any hospital or clinic,  
2 any amount in excess of the PhilHealth benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity  
3 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its Individual Medical Assistance Program  
4 (IMAP):*Provided*, That the requirement for qualification and grant of the health care  
5 assistance to be extended by the PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to  
6 compliance with PCSO's existing rules and guidelines:*Provided, further*, That any qualified  
7 beneficiary shall have the option to waive the benefits mentioned under this Section.  
8

9 **SEC. 6. *Death Benefits.*** - Upon the death of a Professional Filipino Athlete, the  
10 primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Fifty Thousand Pesos  
11 (Php 50,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses:*Provided*, That, if there are no primary  
12 beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

13 **SEC. 7. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits.*** - The Board is hereby authorized to  
14 adjust the retirement benefits provided in Section 4 hereof, based on studies, consultations  
15 and public hearings with relevant agencies and entities. However, no memorandum, order or  
16 issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits provided herein.  
17

### 18 **CHAPTER III** 19 **TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS** 20

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

25 **SEC. 10. *Professional Filipino Athletes Welfare Development Trust Fund.***- There  
26 shall be an independent and separate trust fund established under this Act, to be administered  
27 by the Board. An amount not less than eighty percent (80%) for the first five (5) years,  
28 accrued from the licensing, registration and accreditation fees, fines and charges shall be used  
29 for the purpose of the professional Filipino athlete's welfare development trust fund. The fund  
30 shall be used for the continued upgrading of training facilities to conform with international  
31 standards, accreditation of, and other forms of assistance and support to the professional  
32 athlete's sector. The trust fund may also accept grants and donations from national and  
33 foreign entities and individual interested in the professional athletes' development.  
34

35 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Board within ninety (90) days,  
36 after the effectivity of this Act, through a technical working committee, and in consultation  
37 with the sectors concerned, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and  
38 regulations for the full implementation of this Act:*Provided, however*, That copies of the  
39 formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to the Committee on Games and  
40 Amusement of both Houses of Congress. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon  
41 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.  
42

43 **SEC. 12. *Reportorial Requirements.***- The Board shall submit an annual report of the  
44 implementation of this Act to the relevant committees of both Houses of Congress.  
45

46 **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act shall be held  
47 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the law or other provisions, which are not  
48 affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.  
49

1       **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules  
2 and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
3 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.  
4

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

*Approved,*