

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2955**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by Representatives **Pedro B. Acharon Jr.**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to bestow additional benefits, incentives and gratuity pay to world-class Filipino professional athletes who become world champions in their respective fields of sports at one time in their lives.

These athletes risked lives and limbs in order to give honor and glory to our motherland. Boxers in particular go to the rings unmindful of danger to themselves, but only armed with the thought that what they are doing redounds not only to their benefits but to the country as well. Inside the ring, however, anything could happen-boxer loses his sight even his consciousness and ultimately his life. Hence, woe to the champion who become incapacitated or even died without seeing any financial reward in case of incapacity or death.

The prestige that boxing great Manny Paquiao, our very own compatriot from General Santos City and now our colleague in congress has brought to the country in the international arena cannot be overemphasized. Undoubtedly, he had restored the Philippines in world boxing map, earning the adulation and respect not only of his countrymen but of boxing aficionados the world over.

We not only excelled in boxing but in other sports as well, Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros-Posadas, the bowling hall-of-famer Paeng Nepomuceno, Efren "bata" Reyes- are all world- or regional- class champions themselves. The list is endless but our memories are short.


But champions are champions. They deserved something better than a mere pat in the back or adulation of his countrymen. They ought to receive something tangible when all the admiring glances and shrieking sounds are gone.

The cases of former Filipino world boxing champions Rolando Navarette, Luisito Espinosa and lately, Z. Gorres who become comatose after successful fight are cases in point. Navarette is reduced to the life of a pauper-dependent on charitable gestures from his countrymen for his existence and for his medical expenses. Luisito Espinosa is forced to fight

mediocre fights just so he could survive in a far away land (the United States) Z. Gorres is lucky that many generous persons contributed to shoulder some of his hospital bills. Alone and abandoned, he left with nothing for themselves.

This bill therefore, seeks to grant monthly pension of Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00) to former world champions upon retirement or upon reaching the age of 65 or who become incapacitated in the course of their careers. Likewise, this bill seeks to provide for the hospitalization and medical expenses of said athletes at not more than Two Hundred thousand Pesos per hospitalization.

In view of the foregoing circumstances, approval of this bill is urgently requested.

  
PEDRO B. ACHARON, JR.

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HOUSE BILL NO. **2955**

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**AN ACT**

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

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

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2       SECTION 1. *Title.*- This Act shall be known as the " Professional Filipino Athletes  
3 Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2016".  
4

5       SEC.2. *Declaration of Policy.*- The State shall provide retirement, health care, and  
6 death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles in  
7 international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious world  
8 championship games, in both individual or team events, in recognition of the glory and honor  
9 they bestowed to the country.  
10

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

- 13       a. *Board* – shall refer to the Games and Amusement Board;  
14       b. *Filipino Athletes* - shall refer to professional athletes who are citizens of the Philippines,  
15       except those enjoying dual citizenship by virtue of R.A. No. 9225 otherwise known as  
16       the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003";  
17       c. *International Professional Sports Competitions* - shall refer to international competitions  
18       that confer world championship titles, in both individual or team events, which are duly

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

22  
23 SEC. 4. *Retirement Benefits*. - Professional Filipino Athletes as defined under this Act,  
24 who win in international professional sports competitions shall, upon reaching the age of fifty (50),  
25 receive the following retirement benefits:

26  
27 (a) For Individual Events - a lifetime monthly pension of at least Fifteen Thousand Pesos  
28 (Php15,000.00) for the individual winner;

29  
30 (b) For Team Events - a lifetime monthly pension of at least Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,  
31 000.00) for each team member; *Provided*, That for athletes who win in individual and team  
32 events, the retirement benefits for individual events shall apply.

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

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

13  
14 In case of hospitalization of the professional Filipino athlete in any hospital or clinic, any  
15 amount in excess of the PHILHEALTH benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity  
16 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP); *Provided,*  
17 That the requirement for qualification and grant of the health care assistance to be extended by the  
18 PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to compliance with PCSO's existing rules and  
19 guidelines; *Provided, further,* That any qualified beneficiary shall have the option to waive the  
20 benefits mentioned under this Section.

21  
22 SEC. 6. *Death Benefits.* - Upon the death of a professional Filipino athlete, the primary  
23 beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Thirty thousand pesos  
24 (Php30,000.00) to cover funeral services/expenses: *Provided,* That, if there are no primary  
25 beneficiaries, the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

26  
27 SEC. 7. *Retroactive Effect.* - The benefits provided under this Act shall retroact to all  
28 living professional athletes who, prior to the enactment of this Act, have won in any international  
29 professional sports competition, upon compliance with the requirements that shall be prescribed by  
30 the Board in its Implementing Rules and Regulations; *Provided,* That, the winning professional  
31 athlete was duly licensed by the Board at the time of the competition and the sports event  
32 participated in was recognized and accredited by the Board

1 SEC. 8. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits.*- The Board is hereby authorized to adjust  
2 the retirement benefits provided in Section 4 hereof, based on studies, consultations and  
3 public hearings with relevant agencies and entities. However, no memorandum, order, or  
4 issuance shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits provided herein.

5  
6 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* The Chairman of the Board shall immediately include in the  
7 Board's program the implementation of the benefits under this Act, the funding of which shall be  
8 included in the

9  
10 SEC. 10. *Professional Filipino Athletes Welfare Development Trust Fund.* - There shall be  
11 an independent and separate trust fund established under this Act, to be administered by the  
12 Board. An amount not less than eighty percent (80%) for the first five (5) years, accrued from the  
13 licensing, registration and accreditation fees, fines and charges shall be used for the purpose of the  
14 professional Filipino athlete's welfare development trust fund. The fund shall be used for the  
15 continued upgrading of facilities **NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF**  
16 **PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES AND** to conform with international standards, accreditation of and  
17 other forms of assistance and support to the professional athlete's sector. The trust fund may also  
18 accept grants and donations from national and foreign entities and individuals interested in the  
19 professional athletes' development.

20  
21 SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*- The GAB, in consultation with the  
22 Senate, the House of Representatives and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate and  
23 issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

24  
25 SEC 12. *Reportorial Requirements* - The Board shall submit an annual report of the  
26 implementation of this Act to the relevant committees of both Houses of Congress.

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28 SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act shall be held  
29 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be  
30 in full force and effect.

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

1 SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a  
2 newspaper of general circulation.

3  
4 Approved,  
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