

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3867**



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**INTRODUCED BY REP. JB BERNOS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The mandate of the Games and Amusement Board (GAB), created by the virtue of Executive Order No. 120, s. 1948, is to regulate and supervise professional sports and allied activities. It is also tasked to prevent the existence and proliferation of illegal betting sites and other forms of organized illegal gambling connected with all play-for-pay sports and amusements games. In the recent years, there had been significant developments in activities under its purview that challenged its capacity to regulate them. One of these significant developments is the increasing usage of off-site, online betting technologies that circumvent the traditional methods of betting in horse racing, cockfighting, and jai alai. The easily accessible means of betting without the need for being physically present in betting sites increases the likelihood for even passive bettors to aggressively place amounts on their favorites in these activities.

In the absence of legal framework and mechanisms to regulate these activities, the GAB cannot oversee the sanctity and compliance of matches of professional sports and cannot control the betting coming in through and the money coming out of these online facilities, as the original Executive Order signed in 1948 did not foresee the advancement in technologies that made online betting possible. The government through GAB must ensure that all betting methods are properly accounted for and will be a stable source of revenue where funds for social services will be drawn from. All online betting facilities must submit to the authority of GAB when it comes to licensing for their ventures. Furthermore, the government through this agency's quasi-judicial power must step in to ensure that all professional sports are done safely and

accordingly, and so that organizers will be held liable and responsible for any untoward incidents and disputes arising from the games.

Through this measure, we seek to strengthen the GAB through the expansion of its powers and functions, as well as the additional supervisory and regulatory authority over other forms of amusement like pageants, concerts, and maintenance of amusement parks.

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



**REP. JB BERNOS**  
Lone District, Abra

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

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

**CHAPTER I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

3       **SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall  
4   have the respective meanings hereafter set forth:

5       a. *Cockfighting* shall refer to the commonly known game or term “*cockfighting*  
6       *derby, pintakasi or tupada*”, or its equivalent terms in different Philippine  
7       localities;

8       b. *Contact sports* shall refer to sports, games, or competitions, other than  
9       boxing and wrestling, that involve permissible degree of physical contact,  
10      such as, but is not limited to, punching, striking, grappling, or any other  
11      combat technique that is allowed under the rules, between the participants  
12      or opponents;

13      c. *Fronton* shall refer to the court where basque pelota games are played,  
14      including the adjoining structures used in connection with such games, such

as the betting booths and galleries, totalizator equipment, and the grandstands where the public is admitted in connection with such games;

d. *Jai-alai* or *basque pelota* game shall refer to the pelota game and which shall include the use of pala, raqueta, cesta punta, remonte and mano, in which professional players participate;

e. *Pelotari* shall refer to a professional player engaged in playing basque pelota;

f. *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; *Provided*, That it shall not include those who are paid "token amounts" or its equivalent as salary, prize, or compensation;

g. *Professional boxer or wrestler* shall refer to a professional athlete engaged in boxing or wrestling, respectively;

h. *Professional fighter* shall refer to a professional athlete engaged in unarmed contact sports, other than boxing or wrestling, such as mixed martial arts, thai boxing, *muay thai* and kickboxing;

i. *Professional sports or competitions* shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest, 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, owners or leagues, foundations or athletic societies for profit; *Provided*, That competitions with gate entry fees, television coverage, paid advertisements or sponsors are presumed to be conducted for profit; *Provided further*, That it shall not include competitions held by and under the auspices of national sports associations duly recognized as such by the Philippine Sports Commission, solely for the development of the national training pool, or under the auspices of schools, colleges and universities, for the health and sports development of their

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

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

9 k. *Special Armed Combat* refers to fights that involve the limited use of  
10 traditional or cultural fighting implements such as arnis and other non-  
11 bladed 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  
15 Board, hereinafter referred to as the GAB, shall be attached to the Office of the  
16 President for policy and program coordination. Except as otherwise herein provided,  
17 the GAB, created pursuant to Executive Order No. 392 s. 1951, shall continue to  
18 exercise its mandate over professional sports under Presidential Decree No. 871,  
19 boxing and wrestling under Executive Order No. 120 s. 1948, betting on horseracing  
20 under Republic Act No. 309, as amended, cockfighting under Presidential Decree No.  
21 449 in relation to Presidential Decree No. 1802, jai-alai or basque pelota games under  
22 Executive Order No. 135 s. 1948, as amended, and anti-illegal gambling under  
23 Administrative Order Nos. 262 s. 1992 and 222 s. 1995.

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

27 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions of GAB.** - The GAB, sitting as a collegial body,  
28 shall have the following powers and functions:

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

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

- 7                   1. To promulgate its own rules of procedure for the speedy disposition  
8                   of cases before it;
- 9                   2. To designate any of its officers to conduct hearing or investigation of  
10                  any case pending before it;
- 11                  3. To summon parties, issue subpoena or require the production of such  
12                  books, papers, contracts, records or other documents as may be  
13                  necessary for the just determination and adjudication of any matter  
14                  under investigation;
- 15                  4. To impose administrative sanctions and fines;
- 16                  5. To grant requests for provisional remedies;
- 17                  6. To conduct mediation, conciliation, arbitration or other modes of  
18                  settling disputes; and
- 19                  7. To perform such other duties and exercise other powers incidental to  
20                  or necessary to the exercise of its quasi-judicial powers.

21           c)     **Appeal.** – All actions of the GAB in the exercise of its quasi –judicial  
22 power shall be appealable to the Court of Appeals.

23           d)     **Other Powers.** – The GAB shall likewise have the authority to:

- 24                   1. Cooperate with local and international professional sports  
25 organizations or regulatory bodies and attend relevant sports conventions,  
26 competitions and events;

1           2. Cooperate with organizations engaged in the promotion and control  
2 of amateur and collegiate sports;

3           3. Appoint personnel as it shall deem necessary in the exercise  
4 and performance of its powers and duties, and/or to employ the services by  
5 contract or otherwise, consultant or any local or foreign expert or technical  
6 personnel to provide technical and necessary assistance, conduct seminars and  
7 training and pay reasonable emoluments for their services;

8           4. Inspect the books, records and accounts of any person, entity or  
9 association conducting or authorized to conduct professional sports and require  
10 that the books and financial or other statement of such person, entity or  
11 association shall be kept in such manner as it may prescribe; and

12           5. Perform such other duties and exercise all other powers incidental or  
13 necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the Board and proper  
14 enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

15                                   **CHAPTER II**  
16                                   **PROFESSIONAL SPORTS**

17                                   **A. General Provisions.**

18           **SEC. 6. *Powers and Duties Over All Professional Sports and Athletes.*** – The  
19 GAB shall have the power to:

20           a. Supervise and regulate all professional sports in the country including  
21 training exhibitions in connection therewith;

22           b. Supervise and regulate new and emerging professional sports in the country  
23 including competitive computer/video gaming and other professional racing  
24 sports;

25           c. Enforce all laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, relating to  
26 professional sports;



- 1 d. Issue professional sports licenses for all professional athletes, officials,  
2 employees and persons connected with professional sports and collect fees  
3 therefor;
- 4 e. Supervise the conduct of professional sports officials while in the  
5 performance of their duties as such;
- 6 f. Issue permits for the holding of professional sports and collect fees therefor;
- 7 g. Help in the preservation of Filipino Martial Arts by issuing licenses and  
8 permits for Special Armed Combat under strict terms and conditions the  
9 GAB may deem fit, with due regard to the safety of the fighters;
- 10 h. Approve or disapprove, based on the minimum standards set by the GAB,  
11 the rules and regulations issued by persons, entities or associations relative  
12 to the operation and conduct of professional sports;
- 13 i. Order the suspension or cancellation of any game in case of violation of law  
14 or non-compliance with the provisions of this Act or the rules and  
15 regulations promulgated hereunder or whenever such action is necessary for  
16 the best interest of the professional sports under the supervision of the  
17 GAB;
- 18 j. Consider, investigate, hear and decide all questions, matters, controversies  
19 or disputes arising out of or connected with professional sports under its  
20 supervision in accordance with the rules and procedures it may adopt;
- 21 k. Primary jurisdiction to hear and decide internal disputes of professional  
22 sports leagues and organizations;
- 23 l. Adjudicate the claims between and among athletes, managers, promoters,  
24 and other persons connected with professional sports, arising out of and in  
25 accordance with their contract and award damages;
- 26 m. Impose administrative sanctions and fines to erring athletes, boxers,  
27 fighters, promoters, managers, referees and other professional licensees of  
28 the GAB;



- 1 n. Investigate game-fixing, point shaving and similar machinations in  
2 professional sports and cause the filing of appropriate cases against the  
3 parties involved;
- 4 o. Designate any of its officers to conduct hearing or investigation of any case  
5 pending before it in the exercise of its quasi-judicial powers under this Act;
- 6 p. Require any promoter or entity applying for a permit to conduct  
7 professional sports, contests or exhibitions to furnish the GAB with a cash  
8 or surety bond, in an amount equivalent to twenty-five per centum (25%) of  
9 the total estimate of receipts from the full seating capacity of the building,  
10 stadium or structure where the contest or exhibition is to be held, to answer  
11 for the following obligations in the order named:
- 12 i. Government share as provided for in Section 13;
- 13 ii. Reimbursement of tickets when so ordered by the GAB;
- 14 iii. Guarantee payment of services and prizes to competitors and  
15 games officials.
- 16 q. Prescribe minimum standards for contracts between professional athletes  
17 and their managers, including their sharing in the purse or prize money, if  
18 any, and require the same to be registered with and approved by the GAB;
- 19 r. Require the parties concerned to furnish the GAB with a copy of all  
20 contracts between promoters or other persons or entities conducting  
21 professional sports, contests or exhibitions, and professional athletes, their  
22 managers, and other persons who officiate at such sports, contests or  
23 exhibitions, at least seven (7) days before the sports, contest or exhibition to  
24 which the contract relates;
- 25 s. Require the promoter or entity conducting the professional sports, contests  
26 or exhibitions to pay immediately after such sports, contest or exhibition, or,  
27 in case of a percentage contract, immediately after the percentage is  
28 determined by the auditor of the GAB, in cash or check, the prizes, purses,  
29 compensation or other remuneration of professional athletes, contestants,

1 and all other persons entitled to payment, and to furnish the Board or its  
2 authorized representative with a copy of the receipt for such payment; and

3 t. Perform such other duties and exercise all other powers incidental or  
4 necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the Board and proper  
5 enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

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

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

17 **SEC. 8. Qualifications.** – The GAB shall, by regulation, prescribe the  
18 qualifications and requisites which each applicant for a license shall possess. All  
19 professional athletes shall be examined by a GAB physician, or the physician's duly  
20 authorized representative, who shall certify to both the applicant's physical and  
21 mental fitness for competition before he is granted a license.

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

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

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

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

13           **SEC. 13. *Government Share.*** – Any person, entity or association conducting  
14 professional sports shall set aside and remit to the GAB three per cent (3%) of the  
15 gross gate receipts and income from television, radio, motion picture rights, and other  
16 forms of streaming or broadcasting using advanced technology and other electronic  
17 media, if any, which shall be available to defray the expenses of the personnel of the  
18 GAB assigned to supervise the games and for such other expenses in other activities of  
19 the GAB.

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

26           **SEC. 15. *Exempt Sports.*** – The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to  
27 competitions held by and under the auspices of national sports associations duly  
28 recognized as such by the Philippine Olympic Committee solely for the development of  
29 the national training pool, or by schools, colleges and universities for the health and  
30 sports development of their students, including inter-school competitions, or by  
31 athletic associations and organizations of schools, colleges and universities

1 participated in solely by bona fide students of the member schools, colleges and  
2 universities.

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

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

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

15       **SEC. 18. Medical Tests** - In addition to medical tests required by the GAB, the  
16 GAB shall also require regular Computed Tomography Scan (CT Scan) of the brain  
17 and when necessary, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) or such other additional  
18 tests as the GAB may in its discretion hereafter require.

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

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

29       **SEC. 20. Persons Prohibited from Admission.** – Persons under sixteen (16)  
30 years of age, persons carrying firearms or deadly weapons of any description except

1 government officials performing their official duties, intoxicated persons, and persons  
2 of disorderly nature and conduct who are apt to disturb peace and order, shall not be  
3 admitted or allowed to remain in and around the premises of the place where boxing,  
4 wrestling or other contact sport contest or exhibition is being conducted: *Provided,*  
5 That persons under sixteen (16) years of age may, when accompanied by any of their  
6 parents or court appointed guardians, be admitted therein.

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

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

### 19 **C. Athletes' Welfare Fund.**

20 **SEC. 23. Establishment of Athletes' Welfare Fund.** – The Athletes' Welfare  
21 Fund shall be established and managed by the GAB for the benefit of athletes who  
22 sustain injuries or die in the exercise of their profession, or in such other cases as the  
23 GAB may deem fit, except if the disability or death is a result of an unauthorized or  
24 illegally-conducted professional sports activity.

25 The GAB shall develop a program for immediate financial and medical  
26 assistance to deserving indigent athletes suffering from injuries and emergencies  
27 related to their profession.

28 The Athlete's Welfare Fund shall be constituted from one percent (1%) of all  
29 receipts and income of the GAB.

1       The GAB shall likewise be authorized to receive in trust any donation,  
2       endowment or contribution to the athletes' welfare fund.

3                                   **CHAPTER III**  
4                                   **BETTING ON HORSE RACING**

5       **SEC. 24. Powers and Duties Relative to Horse Racing.** – The betting aspect of  
6       horse racing including betting through off-track betting (OTB) stations or through the  
7       use of the telephone, the internet and other electronic means such as short messaging  
8       service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar platforms, shall be under  
9       the exclusive regulation and supervision of the GAB, while all other aspects of the  
10      conduct of horse racing, including the framing and scheduling of races, the  
11      construction and safety of race tracks, the allocation of prizes, and the security of  
12      racing, shall be under the Philippine Racing Commission pursuant to Presidential  
13      Decree No. 420.

14      **SEC. 25. Establishment of Off-Track Betting Station** - The GAB may authorize  
15      the establishment of Off Track Betting (OTB) station anywhere in the Philippines,  
16      subject to compliance with the terms and conditions set by the GAB including distance  
17      from other OTB stations and from places of worship and educational institutions.

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

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

1       **SEC. 28. *Track Auditors and Checkers.*** – For the purpose of supervising and  
2 verifying the accuracy of reports of any person, race track, racing club, or any other  
3 entity holding races, with respect to the totalizator receipt or the total amount of wager  
4 made on each racing event, the dividends awarded for winning horses, whether win,  
5 place, or show on each event, and other matters referring to the financial  
6 computations or statements, the GAB shall appoint such number of auditing officers  
7 and checkers as may be necessary to be placed in the offices and tracks, race track,  
8 racing club, or entity concerned. It shall be the duty of said auditing officers and  
9 checkers to report to the GAB any irregularities or erroneous computations, which  
10 they may discover in connection with reports on the totalizator sales or the total sales  
11 of wager tickets, or the dividends awarded on each racing event.

12       **SEC. 29. *Betting.*** – The face value of totalizator tickets for wager may be One  
13 Peso (P1.00), Two Pesos (P2.00) or Five Pesos (P5.00), whether for win, place, or  
14 show. The face value of said tickets, as the case may be, shall be the basis for the  
15 computation of dividends, and such dividends shall be paid after eliminating fractions  
16 of Ten Centavos (P0.50). If no ticket has been sold on a winning horse, whether for  
17 win, place or show, the dividends corresponding to such race shall be paid out to the  
18 holders of tickets sold on the horses that finished dead heat, or on the horse that  
19 finished next to that on which not a single ticket was sold: Provided, That the owner of  
20 said winning horse shall be entitled to the corresponding stake or prize.

21       **SEC. 30. *Persons Prohibited from Betting.*** – Racing clubs, race tracks, persons  
22 or entities holding horse races, and their officials, including stewards, judges,  
23 handicappers, jockeys and starters shall not be permitted to participate directly or  
24 indirectly, in the betting on races conducted in their own race-tracks. GAB members,  
25 including GAB officials and employees, are likewise prohibited from betting on any  
26 race.

27       **SEC. 31. *Persons Prohibited from Admission.*** – Minors under eighteen (18)  
28 years of age, except when accompanied by their parents or guardians, persons carrying  
29 deadly weapons or firearms of any description, except peace officers or officials of the  
30 race track or racing club of the GAB, in the performance of their official functions, and  
31 intoxicated persons, shall not be admitted or allowed to remain in a race track or OTB  
32 station during a racing day. In no case shall persons under 15 years of age be allowed



1 admission to a race track or OTB station and in no case shall persons under 21 years of  
2 age be allowed to bet or to purchase wager tickets for others.

3       **SEC. 32. OTB Station Limitation.** - No OTB station shall be allowed to be  
4 established and allowed to operate less than 100 meters away from schools or learning  
5 institutions and churches or places of worship actively and currently being used as  
6 such. New OTB stations shall only be allowed to be established if it is situated 500  
7 meters away from an existing and operating OTB station. An existing OTB station  
8 transferring to another location shall be considered a new OTB station and shall be  
9 required to comply with the requirements therefor.

10       **SEC. 33. Time for Running Daily Double Races; Posting of Ticket Sales.** -  
11 The time for the running of the first race of any daily double event shall be determined  
12 by the GAB depending upon the circumstances surrounding each racing day which  
13 shall be announced to the public by the person, race track, racing club, or entity  
14 holding the races through loudspeakers at the time of the selection of the races  
15 constituting the daily double event, and the second race thereof shall be run not later  
16 than forty-five minutes after the first race. The sale of tickets for the daily double races  
17 shall be allowed after the Board or its authorized representatives have announced to  
18 the public the two races constituting each daily double event. The number of tickets  
19 sold on each horse in the two races of each daily double event and the totals thereof  
20 shall be posted at conspicuous bulletin boards. This information shall also be given to  
21 the public through loudspeakers. The closing of the sale of tickets for each event shall  
22 be properly announced by the ringing of a bell, after which no more tickets shall be  
23 sold.

24       **SEC. 34. Distribution of Receipts.** - The total wager funds or gross receipts  
25 from the sale of pari-mutuel tickets shall be apportioned as follows: eighty-seven and  
26 one-half per centum (87.5%) shall be distributed in the form of dividends among  
27 holders of win, place and show horses, as the case may be, in the regular races; twelve  
28 and one-half per centum (12.5%) shall be set aside as the commission of the person,  
29 race track, racing club, or any other entity conducting the races, which shall include  
30 the amounts for the payment of authorized stakes or prizes for win, place and show  
31 horses, and authorized bonuses for jockeys; and in the case of daily double races, the  
32 gross receipts derived from the total sale of daily double tickets shall be apportioned in

1 the same manner as provided hereinabove, except that the eighty-seven and one-half  
2 per centum (87.5%) 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 races,  
5 instead of among holders of win, place and show horses, as in the case of regular races:  
6 *Provided, however,* That of the twelve and one-half per centum (12.5%) representing  
7 the commission of the person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity holding  
8 horse-racing an amount equivalent to one-half per centum (0.5%) of the total wager  
9 funds or gross receipts from the sale of tickets shall be set aside and turned over to the  
10 GAB by the person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity holding the race as a  
11 special fund activity to cover the expenses and such other purposes authorized under  
12 this Act. Any unexpended balance of this fund at the end of each year in excess of Ten  
13 Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) shall be turned over to the Bureau of Animal Industry  
14 to be used by the latter exclusively for the promotion of horse breeding in the  
15 Philippines.

16 **SEC. 35. *Books, Records and Accounts.*** – The GAB or its duly authorized  
17 representative shall have the power to inspect at all times the books, records and  
18 accounts of any person, race track, racing club, or any other entity holding horse  
19 racing. It may require that the books and financial or other statements of such person,  
20 race track, racing club, or other entity holding horse-racing shall be kept in such  
21 manner as it may prescribe.

22 **SEC. 36. *Unclaimed Dividends.*** – All winning prizes or dividends unclaimed  
23 by the winners within thirty (30) days from the date of the race shall be forfeited in  
24 favor of the government, and collected by the GAB.

#### 25 **CHAPTER IV** 26 **COCKFIGHTING** 27

28 **SEC. 37. *Powers and Functions relative to Cockfighting.*** – Except as  
29 otherwise devolved to the local government units pursuant to Republic Act No. 7160,  
30 otherwise known as the Local Government Code, the supervision, regulation, and  
31 control of all other aspects of cockfighting shall be with the GAB. The GAB shall have  
32 the following powers:

- 1 a. Promulgate rules and regulations relative to the holding, methods,  
2 procedures, operations and conduct of cockfighting in general, as well as  
3 accreditation of cockpit personnel and association of cockpit owners,  
4 operators and lessees, to elevate the standard of cockfighting;
- 5 b. Establish uniform rules and regulations to govern actual cockfighting  
6 enforceable in all cockpits in the Philippines and to provide sanctions for  
7 violations thereof;
- 8 c. Supervise and regulate the conduct of international derbies and collect fees  
9 therefor;
- 10 d. Regulate and supervise the live streaming, broadcasting or other forms of  
11 transmission of cockfights, and any and all betting on cockfighting through  
12 Off-Cockpit Betting Stations (OCBS) or through the telephone, internet and  
13 other electronic means such as short messaging service (SMS), mobile and  
14 desktop applications and similar platforms, and to collect fees amounting to  
15 three percent (3%) of the gross bets made through OCBS and the  
16 aforementioned platforms to defray the expenses of the GAB;
- 17 e. Prescribe policy guidelines for the issuance of permits by the Bureau of  
18 Animal Industry for the importation or entry of gamecocks into the country  
19 for breeding or competition purposes;
- 20 f. Promulgate its own rules and procedures relative to the conduct of its own  
21 business;
- 22 g. Deputize any government office, entity, agency and public officer in the  
23 implementation of all laws, decrees, letters of instructions, general orders  
24 pertinent to cockfighting and rules and regulations issued by the GAB;
- 25 h. Initiate, undertake, hear and decide any investigation for any violation of  
26 this Act, rules and regulations of the GAB and in connection therewith, to  
27 issue subpoena ad testificandum and subpoena duces tecum;
- 28 i. Establish regional offices in such number and location as it will allow it to  
29 perform the duties stated herein; and

1 j. Perform such other functions as may be authorized by law.

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

- 3 a. *Ownership, Operation and Management of Cockpits.* Only Filipino citizens  
4 not otherwise inhibited by existing laws shall be allowed to own, manage  
5 and operate cockpits. Cooperative capitalization is encouraged.
- 6 b. *Establishment of Cockpits.* Only one (1) cockpit shall be allowed in each city  
7 or municipality, except that in cities or municipalities with a population of  
8 over one hundred thousand (100,000), two (2) cockpits may be established,  
9 maintained and operated, which shall be licensed as such by the local  
10 government units in accordance with the Local Government Code.
- 11 c. The GAB may authorize the establishment of OCBS anywhere in the  
12 Philippines, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions set by the  
13 Board including distance from other OCBS and from places of worship and  
14 educational institutions: Provided, That the operators of the OCBS shall  
15 have a legislative franchise;
- 16  
17 d. No OCBS shall be established and operated, nor any betting through the  
18 telephone, the internet and other electronic means such as short messaging  
19 service (SMS), mobile and desktop applications and similar platforms be  
20 conducted, without a legislative franchise and the appropriate permits  
21 issued by the GAB;
- 22 e. *Cockpits Site and Construction.* Cockpits shall be constructed and operated  
23 within the appropriate areas as prescribed in zoning law or ordinance. In  
24 the absence of such law or ordinance, the local executives shall see to it that  
25 no cockpits are constructed within or near existing residential or  
26 commercial areas, hospitals, school buildings, churches or other public  
27 buildings. Owners, lessees, or operators of cockpits which are now in  
28 existence and do not conform to this requirement are given three (3) years  
29 from the date of effectivity of this Act to comply herewith. Approval or  
30 issuance of building permits for the construction of cockpits shall be made

1 by the city or provincial engineer in accordance with their respective  
2 building codes, ordinances or engineering laws and practices.

3 f. *Holding of Cockfights.* Cockfighting shall be allowed only in licensed  
4 cockpits on days as the local government unit concerned sees fit: *Provided,*  
5 That no cockfighting shall be held on December 30 (Rizal Day), June 12  
6 (Philippine Independence Day) November 30 (National Heroes Day), Holy  
7 Thursday, Good Friday, Election or Referendum Day and during  
8 Registration Days for such election or referendum.

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

13 **SEC. 39. Cockfighting Officials.** – Gaffers, referees, *mangagamot* or  
14 specialists, bet takers or promoters of local cockfights shall not act as such in any  
15 cockfight herein authorized, without first securing a license from the city or  
16 municipality where such cockfighting is held. Gaffers, referees, *mangagamot* or  
17 specialists, bet takers or promoters who shall engage in a cockfight held in a different  
18 municipality or city or in international derbies shall secure a license from the GAB. In  
19 both cases, the GAB shall maintain a register of all such gaffers, referees or bet takers.

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

## 25 **CHAPTER V**

### 26 **JAI ALAI**

27  
28 **SEC. 41. Powers and Functions Relative to Jai-Alai.** – The GAB shall:

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

24       **SEC. 42. Persons Prohibited From Admission.** – Persons under sixteen (16)  
25      years of age, persons carrying firearms or deadly weapons of any description, except  
26      government officials actually performing their official duties therein, intoxicated  
27      persons, and persons of disorderly nature and conduct who are apt to disturb peace  
28      and order, shall not be admitted or allowed in any fronton: *Provided*, That persons

1 under sixteen (16) years of age may, when accompanied by their parents or guardians,  
2 be admitted therein but in no case shall such minors be allowed to bet.

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

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

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

21 **SEC. 46. *Installation of Automatic Electric Totalizator.*** – Any person or entity  
22 operating a fronton wherein betting in any form is allowed shall install in its premises  
23 an automatic electrically operated indicator system and ticket selling machine,  
24 commonly known as totalizator, which shall clearly record each ticket purchased on  
25 every player in any game, the total number of tickets sold on each event, as well as the  
26 dividends that correspond to holders of winning numbers.

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



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

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

17       **SEC. 50. Distribution of Wager Funds.** - Unless otherwise provided for in the  
18 their franchise, the total wager funds or gross receipts collected by duly authorized jai-  
19 alai operators/clubs from the sale of the betting tickets shall be apportioned as  
20 follows: a commission not exceeding ten and one-half per centum (10.5%) on the total  
21 bets on each game or event shall be set aside for the person or entity operating the  
22 fronton and four and one-half per centum (4.5%) of such bets shall be remitted into  
23 the National Treasury for disposition as may be authorized by law or executive order;  
24 and the balance or eighty-five per centum (85%) of the total bets shall be distributed in  
25 the form of dividends among holders of "*win*" or "*place*" numbers or holders of the  
26 winning combination or grouping of numbers, as the case may be: *Provided, however,*  
27 That of the ten and one-half per centum (10.5%) representing the commission of the  
28 person or entity operating the fronton, an amount equivalent to one-half per centum  
29 (.5%) of the total bets or wager funds shall be set aside and remitted to the GAB, and  
30 made available to cover its expenses for the supervision and regulation of basque  
31 pelota games in frontons and off-frontons.

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

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

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

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

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

## 4 **CHAPTER VI**

### 5 **OTHER FORMS OF AMUSEMENTS**

6  
7 **SEC. 54. *Setting Up of a One-Stop Shop.*** - The GAB shall set up a one-stop  
8 shop for the issuance of licenses or permits for the conduct of international  
9 amusement events or productions, such as concerts, theatrical plays, circus acts,  
10 among others, in coordination with the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Labor  
11 and Employment, Department of Tourism and other government agencies concerned.

## 12 **CHAPTER VII**

### 13 **ANTI -ILLEGAL GAMBLING UNIT**

14  
15  
16 **SEC. 55. *Enforcement and Investigation Division.*** - There shall be an  
17 Enforcement and Investigation Division that shall combat and prevent the existence  
18 and proliferation of illegal bookie joints and other illegal forms of organized gambling  
19 in professional sports and amusement games.

20  
21 **SEC. 56. *Creation of Anti-Illegal Gambling Unit.*** - To assist the GAB in its  
22 fight against illegal bookie joints and other illegal forms of organized gambling in  
23 professional sports and amusement games, an Anti-Illegal Gambling Unit (AIGU) is  
24 hereby created to be composed of personnel from GAB Enforcement and Investigation  
25 Division and other organic personnel to be appointed by the GAB: Provided, That the  
26 GAB-AIGU may request for operational assistance from government agencies involved  
27 in gaming operations or law enforcement in the exercise of its functions.

28  
29 **SEC. 57. *Prosecution.*** The GAB-AIGU shall monitor the status of arrests made  
30 and complaints filed to ensure that suspects are prosecuted. The GAB shall submit a  
31 quarterly report on the operations of the GAB-AIGU to the Office of the President.

## 32 **CHAPTER VII**

### 33 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

34

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

**SEC. 59. 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.

**SEC. 60. 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.

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

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