

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4492



Introduced by Representative Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The State recognizes the role of the youth in nation-building, and also the importance of sports in the betterment of lives of Filipinos, as enshrined in Sections 13 and 17 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, to wit:

Section 13. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Section 17. The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

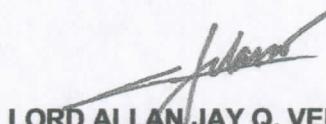
Grassroots development of sports in the country, however, is woefully lacking. The country, time and again, erupts in unison to celebrate the sports achievements of our homegrown athletes who brought home laurels for the Philippines despite the lack of a sustained sports development program. Our country is home to world champions in boxing, bowling, swimming, shooting, and wushu, among others. The present public and private school educational system provide inadequate support to the gifted student-athlete. Public school student athletes may pursue their passion only through the *Palarong Pambansa* or the Philippine National Games that is, if they are talented enough to be recruited. In terms of curriculum, physical education (PE) is consolidated with music, arts, and health in just one academic subject that translates to less time and focus devoted to sports. While the Department of Education has identified one high school in each region as schools with a Special Program in Sports (SPS), there is no clear training program and selection criteria in place in public schools.

On the other hand, the private school system provides more opportunities for exposure in sporting activities not only because PE is treated as a separate academic subject, but also because of the active development of varsity teams that participate in inter-school leagues across the country. However, it is not uncommon for student-athletes in private schools to experience academic difficulties due to the lack of time to study and complete projects.

Thus, the time is ripe to discover and nurture these athletes and other potentially gifted athletes and provide adequate support for them by endowing them with sustained training and support starting at the high school level. The development of grassroots sports in the country is long overdue. In order to be able to compete internationally on a sustained level in different sports, a basic education program is needed that is focused and specialized for the youth who have the gifts and potential.

This bill aims to establish and maintain a high school for student-athletes. The Philippine High School for Sports (PHSS) will offer, on a scholarship basis, a secondary course with special emphasis on developing the athletic skills of the students through subjects pertaining to physical education and sports development. This will enable student-athletes to gain quality secondary education while ensuring opportunities for their continued training, exposure, and participation in relevant sports competitions. Moreover, the measure will help the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) in training and developing future world-class national athletes, who will have improved training, better equipment, and adequate support because of their holistic development within PHSS. The PHSS system also aims to provide the student-athletes with skills, which will make them employable immediately after high school.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this measure is sought.

  
**LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO**

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**AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A  
PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR SPORTS (PHSS) SYSTEM  
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 Philippine High School*  
2 *for Sports (PHSS) System Act of 2019.*”

3

4       Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Philippine Constitution recognizes the vital  
5 role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral,  
6 spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It is likewise mandated that the State shall  
7 promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and  
8 amateur sports, including training for international competitions, foster self-discipline,  
9 teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

10      It is therefore declared the policy of the State to maximize the athletic abilities of  
11 students with the end in view of producing world-class athletes with solid academic  
12 background. In line with this, an educational system to foster the total development of  
13 the youth, with special emphasis on the enhancement and development of their skills in  
14 sports, is hereby established.

15

16      Sec. 3. *Objectives.* – In implementing the foregoing policy, the State shall pursue  
17 the following objectives:

- 18           (a) Integrate all PHSS campuses into one system of governance and  
19 management;
- 20           (b) Ensure uniformity in quality standards and systematize operations of schools  
21 under the PHSS System; and
- 22           (c) Rationalize the establishment of PHSS campuses in Luzon, Visayas and  
23 Mindanao.

1        Sec. 4. *Creation and Establishment of the Philippine High School for Sports*  
2        (*PHSS*) *System.* – There is hereby created and established a national high school to be  
3        known as the Philippine High School for Sports (*PHSS*). This shall be attached to the  
4        Department of Education (*DepEd*) which shall also coordinate with the Philippine Sports  
5        Commission (*PSC*) for policy and program formulation and implementation on subjects  
6        pertaining to sports.

7        In order to ensure that every Filipino in the country will be given the opportunity  
8        to receive sports training and development from *PHSS* and to maximize the potential of  
9        *PHSS* to deliver quality sports development in all regions in the country, at least one (1)  
10      *PHSS* campus shall be operational and shall be maintained in Luzon, in Visayas and in  
11      Mindanao.

12    
13        Sec. 5. *Purpose of the PHSS.* – The *PHSS* shall offer, on a full and partial  
14      scholarship basis, a secondary course with special emphasis on developing the athletic  
15      skills of the students through subjects pertaining to physical education and sports  
16      development, with the end in view of preparing its students who have shown early  
17      potential of excelling in certain sports for a sports-related career while undergoing  
18      quality secondary education. The Board of Trustees may agree to accept paying  
19      students based on the criteria for eligibility for scholarships as established.

20    
21        Sec. 6. *Overall Coordinating Authority.* – The *PHSS* System shall be under the  
22      administrative supervision of the Department of Education (*DepEd*) in coordination with  
23      the Philippine Sports Commission (*PSC*).

24    
25        SEC. 7. *Executive Director of the PHSS.* – The *PHSS* shall have an Executive  
26      Director (*ED*), who shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees mentioned in Section 11  
27      of this Act. The *ED* shall be conferred the rank equivalent to a bureau director with a  
28      fixed term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment. The Board of  
29      Trustees shall fix the compensation of the Executive Director.

30        The *ED* shall coordinate the implementation of policies and guidelines set by the  
31      Board of Trustees. As a member of the Board of Trustees, the *ED* shall articulate to the  
32      Board the mutual concern of all the campuses.

33    
34        SEC. 8. *Roles and Functions of the Executive Director.* – The *ED* shall perform  
35      the following roles and functions:

- 36        (a) Coordinate curriculum planning activities for the *PHSS* System;  
37        (b) Provide legal and technical support to the members of the System;

- (c) Coordinate exchange programs with other educational institutions both local and foreign;
  - (d) Develop and coordinate linkages and networking among the campuses of the PHSS System with other institutions;
  - (e) Coordinate the implementation of the program for the identification and selection of scholars for the PHSS System;
  - (f) Provide for the secretariat services of the Board of Trustees;
  - (g) Perform other functions as may be deemed necessary.

9 For the efficient and effective implementation of the foregoing functions, the ED shall be  
10 provided with a staff.

11  
12        Sec. 9. *Campus Director (CD)*. – Each school campus shall be headed by a  
13 Campus Director who shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees, upon  
14 recommendation of the Executive Director on the basis of a search process. The CD  
15 shall have a fixed term of four (4) years, renewable for another term at the option of the  
16 Board. The CD shall not be removed from office except for cause.

17 The CD shall be the administrative and academic head of his or her campus and  
18 will be responsible for its smooth operations. Each CD will handle the development of  
19 his or her own campus' curriculum taking into consideration the unique talents and skills  
20 of the students in their region. Said curriculum must ultimately meet the objectives of  
21 this Act. The CD may constitute a consultative body which may act as a citizen's arm to  
22 interpret the educational needs of the service area of the campus.

24            Sec. 10. *Executive Committee.* – An Executive Committee (ExeCom) shall be  
25        established and shall be composed of the Executive Director and the Campus Directors  
26        in the PHSS System as members. The committee shall be collegial in character.

27 The ExeCom shall meet quarterly to ensure that all policies, programs and  
28 guidelines of the PHSS are being implemented judiciously in each school campus.  
29 During the meeting of the ExeCom, each Campus Director shall confer the concerns of  
30 their own campus to the Executive Director for consultation and resolution.

32        Sec. 11. *Board of Trustees.* – The exercise of the corporate powers of the PHSS  
33    is hereby vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the  
34    Board, and in the Executive Director, insofar as authorized by said Board. The officials  
35    and members of the Board shall serve for a period of four (4) years.

36 The PHSS shall have a Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of the  
37 following members: Secretary of the DepEd or his representative, as ex-officio  
38 Chairperson of the Board, Chairperson of the PSC or his representative as ex-officio

1 Vice Chairperson of the Board. The following shall be members of the Board: the  
2 Executive Director of the PHSS, the Chairperson of the House Committee on Youth and  
3 Sports Development, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Sports, and three (3)  
4 representatives from the sports community of known expertise, integrity and probity:  
5 *Provided*, That each island group of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao shall have one (1)  
6 sports community representative sitting in the Board; *Provided further*, That each  
7 representative from the sports community shall be chosen from among a list of persons  
8 qualified in the field of sports, as recommended by each Regional Search Committee for  
9 Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Each Regional Search Committee shall be constituted  
10 by each Campus Director, in consultation with the Chairperson of the PSC, based on  
11 the normal standards and qualification for the position.

12 All members of the Board who are not receiving regular compensation from the  
13 government shall receive *per diem* per session of the Board.

14

15        **Sec. 12. Powers and Functions of the Board of Trustees.** – The Board shall have  
16 all the powers and prerogatives of a Board of Directors of a private corporation. It shall  
17 also have the following powers, among others:

- 18        (a) To fix the *situs* of PHSS campuses in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao;
- 19        (b) To receive and appropriate for the ends herein specified such sums as may be  
20                provided by law for the support of the PHSS;
- 21        (c) To approve appointments made and contracts entered into by each Campus  
22                Director in connection with the employment of teachers, lecturers and other  
23                employees of the school, to fix their compensation and other conditions of  
24                employment, and to remove them for cause after proper investigation;
- 25        (d) To import duty-free sports education and training books and/or publications upon  
26                certification by the DepEd that such imported books and/or publications are for  
27                sports education and training purposes in accordance with the provisions of the  
28                Customs Modernization and Tariff Act;
- 29        (e) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, as the Board may  
30                deem proper to impose, after due and comprehensive consultation with each  
31                Campus Director and students concerned;
- 32        (f) To provide and approve fellowships and training for faculty members;
- 33        (g) To approve the grant of scholarships, stipends and such other allowances to  
34                deserving students, as recommended by each Campus Director;
- 35        (h) To establish the criteria, taking into consideration the recommendation of each  
36                Campus Director, for the selection and admission of students which shall include,  
37                among others, national competitive trials and examinations;

- 1       (i) To develop the athletic potential of every student together with a sound and  
2                  strong academic base;
- 3       (j) To provide a training program for students with the end goal of creating athletes  
4                  who are competitive in the national, Southeast Asian, Asian, and Olympic level;
- 5       (k) To approve the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for  
6                  graduation, as recommended by each Campus Director;
- 7       (l) To solicit and receive in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal  
8                  property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the entire PHSS  
9                  System, or for aid to any of its students;
- 10      (m) To perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation.

12                  Sec. 13. *Quorum of the Board of Trustees.* – A quorum of the Board shall consist  
13                  of the majority of all the members holding office at the time the meeting is called.

15                  Sec. 14. *Annual Report.* – On or before the first of April of each year, the Board  
16                  shall submit to DepEd a detailed report on the progress, condition, and needs of the  
17                  PHSS.

19                  Sec. 15. *Registrars.* – Each PHSS campus shall have its own Campus Registrar,  
20                  which shall be appointed by each Campus Director with the approval of the Board. Each  
21                  Campus Registrar shall keep all records pertaining to his school campus.

22                  The Executive Director shall appoint the Registrar of the Board of Trustees, with  
23                  prior approval from the Board itself. The Registrar of the Board shall perform the role of  
24                  the Board's Secretary and shall take care of all its records.

26                  Sec. 16. *Treasurers.* – Each campus shall have one (1) Campus Treasurer,  
27                  which shall be appointed by each Campus Director with the approval of the Board.

28                  The Executive Director shall also appoint a Treasurer-General (TG) for the entire  
29                  PHSS System, with prior approval from the Board of Trustees. The TG shall be  
30                  responsible for all accounts and expenses of the PHSS, including that of its Board of  
31                  Trustees. All accounts and expenses of the PHSS are public in nature, and shall be  
32                  subject to auditing by the Commission on Audit (COA). The TG shall regularly  
33                  coordinate with every Campus Treasurer for appropriate reporting and collection of  
34                  information.

35                  To ensure the full satisfaction of his or her functions, the TG shall be provided  
36                  with a staff.

1           Sec. 17. *Tax Exemptions of the PHSS.* – The PHSS shall be exempt from  
2 payment of all taxes, fees, assessments, and other charges of the Government, its  
3 branches and subdivisions.

4           It shall likewise be exempt from the payment of customs duties, taxes and tariffs  
5 on the importation of sportswear, equipment, books, supplies, instruments, materials  
6 and goods, including those donated to the PHSS: *Provided*, That these are of  
7 international sports standards and are not available from local manufacturers: *Provided*,  
8 *further*, That the importation shall only be in such numbers as may be required in the  
9 development of various sports and training of the students.

10          The PHSS shall also be exempt from withholding taxes on the honoraria or fees  
11 paid by the PHSS to visiting lecturers or professors from abroad.

12          Sec. 18. *Tax Deduction or Exemption of Donations and Contributions.* – All  
13 legacies, gifts, and donations for the benefit of the PHSS, or for its support and  
14 maintenance, or for aid to any of its students shall be tax-exempt and shall be an  
15 allowable deduction from the gross income of the donors.

16          Sec. 19. *Sports High School Fund.* – All incomes of, and donations to, the PHSS  
17 created under this Act, shall be formed into a fund, to be known as the Sports High  
18 School Fund, which the PHSS shall be authorized to retain, without need of a separate  
19 approval from any government agency, and subject only to existing accounting and  
20 auditing rules and regulations. This fund shall be expended, as authorized by the Board,  
21 exclusively for the purpose of this Act.

22          Sec. 20. *Funding.* – To carry out the purposes of this Act, the amount of One  
23 Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated and shall be made  
24 available from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated.  
25 Thereafter, this amount to be utilized for the expenses of the PHSS, for the purpose  
26 above described, shall be provided in the yearly General Appropriations Act.

27          Sec. 21. *Additional Funding.* – Various sources of revenue shall be explored,  
28 such as a combination of government funding, private sponsorship/scholarships, profit  
29 generation, among others.

30          Sec. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board of Trustees shall  
31 formulate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the implementation of this  
32 Act.

1        Sec. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held  
2 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall  
3 continue to be in full force and effect.

4

5        Sec. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive order and other  
6 administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of  
7 this Act are hereby modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

8

9        Sec. 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
10 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in  
11 the Philippines.

12

13        *Approved,*