

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4128



Introduced by Representative ALYSSA SHEENA TAN

AN ACT
CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR
SPORTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a well known saying that the children are the future of the nation and the Philippines has an overwhelming amount of potential from the youth that must be nurtured. As mandated by our Constitution, particularly Sec. 13 of Article II, "the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs." Therefore, the creation of the Philippine Sports High School is indisputably necessary to carry out the State's obligation towards youth development.

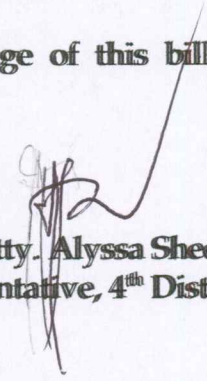
It is unfortunate that the general state of Philippine sports is overlooked and our young athletes are not invested on. One of the major hindrances to the advancement of sports education in our country is the limited funding allocated by the government. Through this bill, the Philippine Sports High School aims to offer a sports-oriented curriculum and scholarship grants to deserving students that will enable them to realize their full athletic potential while being equipped with quality education.

Furthermore, the welfare of the children is essentially one of the utmost priorities of the State as they craft the future of our nation. However, due to the lack of opportunities available to the youth today, some have resorted to exploring vices such as illegal drugs and underage drinking which eventually prompt their involvement in crimes. The promotion of sports in the country is expected to redirect the youth's interest into a productive and sensible cause.

As proven by a number of notable Filipino athletes such as Sen. Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao, Hidilyn Diaz, and Lydia de Vega, an athlete armed with proper training and immense support could carry the Philippine flag and proudly represent the country world-wide. Sports should not be taken lightly because it has been proven to be a career that is truly life-changing. Athletes, especially the young ones,

deserve every chance to fully maximize their potential and this bill seeks to be the change in the current system of sports in our country today.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.¹



Atty. Alyssa Sheena Tan
Representative, 4th District of Isabela

¹ A similar bill was passed by Senator Juan "Sonny" Edgardo Angara in the current Congress.

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SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "The Philippine High School for Sports (PHSS) Act."

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

SECTION 4. Purpose of the PHSS. - The PHSS shall offer, on a full and partial 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, with the end in view of preparing its students who have shown their early potential of excelling in sports for a sports-related career while

undergoing quality secondary education. The Board may agree to accept paying students based on the criteria for eligibility for scholarships as established.

SECTION 5. *Director of the PHSS.* - The PHSS shall be headed by a Director, who shall serve for a period of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment. He shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees, as created in Section 6. The Board shall also fix his compensation. His functions, powers and duties, in addition to those specifically provided for in this law, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the principal of any high school in the Philippine educational system.

SECTION 6. *Board of Trustees.* - The exercise of the corporate powers of the PHSS is hereby vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, and in the Director, insofar as authorized by said Board, and shall serve for a period of three (3) years.

The PHSS shall have a Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of the following members: Secretary of the DepEd or his representative, the Chairperson of the PSC or his representative, the Director of the PHSS, one (1) representative each from the Senate and the House of Representatives, and four (4) representatives from the sports community: *Provided*, that the four (4) representatives from the sports community shall be chosen from among a list of persons qualified in the field of sports, as recommended by the Search Committee constituted by the Director in consultation with the Chairperson of the PSC, based on the normal standards and qualification for the position: *Provided, further*, that the members shall elect from among themselves the Chair of the Board. All members who are not receiving regular compensation from the government shall receive per diem per session of the Board.

SECTION 7. *Powers and Functions of the Board of Trustees.* - The Board shall have all the powers and prerogatives of a Board of Directors of a private corporation. It shall also have the following powers, among others:

- (a) To fix the site of the PHSS;
- (b) To receive and appropriate for the ends herein specified such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the PHSS;
- (c) To approve appointments made and contracts entered into by the Director in connection with the employment of teachers, lecturers and other employees of the school, to fix their compensation and other conditions of employment, and to remove them for cause after proper investigation;
- (d) To import duty-free sports education and training books and/or publications upon certification by the DepEd that such imported books and/or publications are for sports education and training purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act;

- (e) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due and comprehensive consultation with the students concerned;
- (f) To provide and approve fellowships and training for faculty members;
- (g) To approve the grant of scholarships, stipends and such other allowances to deserving students;
- (h) To establish the criteria for the selection and admission of students which shall include, among others, national competitive trials and examinations;
- (i) To develop the athletic potential of every student together with a sound and strong academic base;
- (j) To provide a training program for students with the end goal of creating athletes who are competitive in the national. South East Asian, Asian, and Olympics level;
- (k) To approve the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for graduation;
- (l) To solicit and receive in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the PHSS or for aid to any of its students;
- (m) To develop a curriculum that will meet the objectives of the Act; and
- (n) To perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation.

SECTION 8. *Quorum of the Board of Trustees.* - A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all the members holding office at the time the meeting is called.

SECTION 9. *Annual Report.* - On or before the first of April of each year the Board shall submit to the DepEd a detailed report on the progress, condition and needs of the PHSS.

SECTION 10. *Executive Council.* - There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the Director, the Assistant Director, as provided in Section 11, the heads of departments, and such other ranking faculty members or officials of the PHSS, as may be determined by the Board.

The Council shall have the power to screen and select the students subject for admission, to select students who shall be recipients of scholarships, stipends and other allowances, and to develop the curricula, course or study, and rules of discipline. The Council shall implement and execute the policies laid down by the Board and exercise such other functions, powers and duties as the Board may prescribe.

SECTION 11. *Assistant Director of the PHSS.* - There shall be an Assistant Director who shall assist the Director. In the absence of the Director, he shall assume the

administrative and supervisory functions of the Director. He shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board subject to the approval of the same Board, which shall also fix his compensation.

SECTION 12. Registrar of the PHSS. - There shall be a Registrar of the School who shall also act as Secretary of the Board, to be appointed by the Director with the approval of the Board. He shall keep all records of the PHSS.

SECTION 13. Treasurer of the PHSS. - There shall be a Treasurer of the PHSS who shall be appointed by the Director, with the approval of the Board. All accounts and expenses of the PHSS are public in nature, and shall be subject to auditing by the Commission on Audit (COA).

SECTION 14. Tax Exemptions of the PHSS. - The PHSS shall be exempt from payment of all taxes, fees, assessments and other charges of the Government, its branches and subdivisions.

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

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

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

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

SECTION 17. Funding. - To carry out the purposes of this Act the amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated and shall be made available from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, this amount to be utilized for the expenses of the PHSS, for the purpose above described, shall be provided in the yearly General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 18. *Additional Funding.* - Various sources of revenue shall be explored, such as a combination of government funding, private sponsorship/scholarships, profit generation, among others.

SECTION 19. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 20. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, decrees, executive order and other administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 21. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a major daily newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,