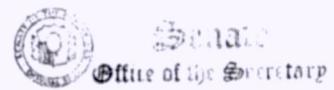


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*



Senate

Office of the Secretary

SENATE

19 JUL 29 A11:23

S. No. 805

RECEIVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. B. Revilla, Jr."

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT  
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING AND COMBAT SPORTS COMMISSION  
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The sport of boxing has no doubt become a part of our country's culture as it undoubtedly brings our nation together every time one of our elite boxing or combat sports professionals have a bout. It has truly become an instrument of unity for the Filipinos, making us set aside our differences to become one nation supporting a fellow countryman representing us to the whole world.

The rise of boxing or combat sports popularity has grown exponentially in the past decade due to the number of elite athletes we have. Our nation has deep roots when it comes to combat since we are well known around the world due to the number of our martial arts styles and disciplines which are also used in the training of foreign military units around the world. To name a few disciplines other than boxing, we have Dumog, Kali, Eskrima, Kino Mutai, Panantukan, Sikaram, Yawyan and many others. In the eyes of the world, we are champions and veterans in the field of boxing and combat sports.

The rise of popularity goes hand-in-hand with growth of interest. Each and every day, more and more of our young choose to take the road of boxing or combat sports

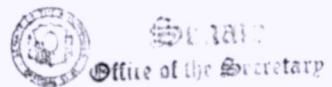
with the hopes of bringing honor to our nation, to elevate their status in life, and to be able to better provide the needs of their families.

This field entails obvious hazards. Boxers and combat athletes are at high risk of death due to the dangerous nature of their chosen profession. It is the duty of the state to enhance current policies and implement new laws, rules and regulations to further protect the welfare of our warriors.

Considering that this bill aims to safeguard members of a growing sector of our country, the passage of this bill into law is earnestly sought.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**AN ACT  
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING AND COMBAT SPORTS COMMISSION  
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1       Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Boxing and  
2       Combat Sports Commission Act".

3       Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to promote sports  
4       to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote human  
5       liberation and development. The State shall promote excellence in professional boxing  
6       and combat sports by establishing a commission that will formulate and implement a  
7       national policy for the development and safety of Filipino professional boxers and  
8       combatants.

9       Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

10      (a) Boxer refers to an individual who fights another in a boxing match;  
11      (b) Combat sports refer to any of the following or a combination of any of the  
12       following:

- 13       (1) Boxing or fist fighting in any of its styles  
14       (2) Kickboxing in any of its styles  
15       (3) Any sport, martial art, or activity that involves, in accordance with the  
16           applicable regulation, striking, kicking, hitting, grappling, throwing and/  
17           or punching opponents

- (c) Combatant refers to a person who engages in combat sport as a contestant in professional combat sports contest;
  - (d) License refers to a document issued by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission authorizing a person or entity to perform duties as a privilege connected with professional boxing and combat sports;
  - (e) Manager refers to a person who receives compensation for service as an agent or representative of a professional boxer or combatant;
  - (f) Permit refers to a document issued by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission authorizing a person or entity to hold, promote or engage in the conduct or operation of a professional boxing or combat sports match;
  - (g) Professional boxer refers to a boxer who is issued a license or permit by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission to fight in a boxing match for a sum of money or other compensation such as a salary or prize money;
  - (h) Professional boxing match refers to a boxing match between professional boxers who shall receive money or other compensation for fighting in said match, but shall not refer to a boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur sports organization;
  - (i) Professional combat sports match refers to a sports match between professional sports combatants who shall receive money or other compensation for fighting in said match;
  - (j) Professional sports combatant refers to a person who is issued a license or permit by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission to fight in a professional combat sports match for a sum of money, or other compensation such as a salary or prize; and
  - (k) Promoter refers to a person, group of persons, or an entity, licensed as such by the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission and primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing a professional boxing or combat sports match. The term "promoter" does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment hosting or sponsoring a professional boxing or combat sports match unless - (i) the hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment is primarily responsible for organizing, promoting,

1           and producing the match; or (ii) there is no person or group of persons  
2           primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing the match.

3           Sec. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission.* — To  
4           carry out the above declared policy, the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports  
5           Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, is hereby created. The  
6           Commission shall be attached to the Office of the President and have the same status  
7           as a national regulatory agency.

8           Sec. 5. *Objectives.* — The Commission shall have the following objectives:

- 9           (a) To strengthen professional boxing and combat sports in the Philippines and  
10           promote the development of world-class professional boxers and combatants;  
11           and
- 12           (b) To establish policies related to and regulate professional boxing and combat  
13           sports, and protect the welfare of professional boxers and combatants.

14           Sec. 6. *Composition.* — The Commission shall be composed of a Chairperson  
15           and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines:  
16           Provided, That the Chairperson and two (2) of the members shall be chosen from the  
17           nominees of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), one (1) member chosen from  
18           the nominees of the Department of Health (DOH), and one (1) member from the  
19           nominees from the private sector.

20           For succeeding appointments to the Commission, the nominations by the PSC  
21           and the DOH shall be submitted to the Office of the President thirty (30) days prior to  
22           the expiration of the term of office of the incumbents, or within thirty (30) days from  
23           the occurrence of any vacancy in the Commission. The nominees shall be of known  
24           integrity and shall have nationally recognized experience and comprehensive  
25           knowledge in professional boxing and combat sports.

26           Sec. 7. *Term of Office.* — The term of office of the Chairperson and the  
27           members of the Commission shall be six (6) years: Provided, That no vacancy  
28           shall be filled except for the unexpired portion of any term. The Chairperson

1 and members of the Commission may be suspended or removed by the  
2 President of the Philippines.

3 Sec. 8. *Meetings and Quorum.* — The Commission shall meet regularly once a  
4 month and as often as the exigencies of the service may demand, upon the call of the  
5 Chairperson or upon the request of three (3) members of the Commission. The vote  
6 of a majority of the entire membership of the Commission shall be necessary for the  
7 adoption of any rule, resolution, or decision.

8 Sec. 9. *Allowances and Per Diems.* — The members of the Commission shall  
9 receive a per diem for each meeting actually attended by them at the rates set by the  
10 Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) pursuant to Republic Act No. 10149,  
11 otherwise known as the "GOCC Governance Act of 2011".

12 Sec. 10. *Powers and Duties of the Commission.* — The Commission shall have  
13 the following powers and duties:

- 14 (a) Formulate, initiate, plan, and implement a national policy for the development  
15 of professional boxing and combat sports;
- 16 (b) Formulate, review, and update the rules and procedures related to  
17 professional boxing and combat sports in conformity with international  
18 standards;
- 19 (c) Establish a system of registration and licensing of boxers, combatants,  
20 referees, trainers, seconds, cut man and other personnel;
- 21 (d) Establish rules, set requirements, and collect fees for the grant or renewal of  
22 a license to a professional boxer, combatant, coach or trainer, promoter or  
23 judge or referee, and a permit for a professional boxing or combat sports  
24 match;
- 25 (e) Suspend or revoke a license or permit;
- 26 (f) Establish a consultative mechanism which shall provide a forum for continuing  
27 dialogue between all stakeholders in the implementation of all laws, policies,  
28 programs, and projects relating to boxing and combat sports;
- 29 (g) Act as a quasi-judicial board when it shall deem necessary to initiate, hear,  
30 and decide any investigation for any violation of its rules and regulations and,  
31 in connection therewith, issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum;

- 1                         (h) Determine and set a safety standard for and ensure that emergency medical  
2                         personnel and services are available in every professional boxing match and  
3                         combat sports in the Philippines;
- 4                         (i) Maintain an integrated registry of professional boxers, combatants, coaches,  
5                         trainers, judges, referees, and promoters;
- 6                         (j) Seek or request the assistance and support of any government agency, office  
7                         or instrumentality including government-owned and controlled corporations,  
8                         local government units as well as nongovernmental organizations or  
9                         institutions in pursuit of its policies;
- 10                         (k) Establish and maintain linkages with international boxing and combat sports  
11                         organizations or institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign governments  
12                         in order to facilitate and ensure the participation of Filipino professional boxers  
13                         and combatants in international events;
- 14                         (l) Allocate resources for the implementation of national policies related to boxers  
15                         and combatants;
- 16                         (m) Submit an annual report on the implementation of this Act to the President  
17                         and to Congress; and
- 18                         (n) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to effectively and efficiently  
19                         carry out the provisions of this Act. The functions of the Games and  
20                         Amusements  
21                         Board (GAB) as well as other entities related to boxing and combat sports are  
22                         hereby transferred to the Commission.

23                         Sec. 11. *Secretariat.* - The Commission shall have a secretariat, which shall be  
24                         headed by an Executive Director and such other technical and administrative staff as  
25                         may be determined by the Commission. The secretariat shall implement the policies  
26                         and programs approved by the Commission and administer its day to day functions.  
27                         The salaries, allowances, and other emoluments of the secretariat shall be determined  
28                         by the Commission in accordance with civil service rules, the salary standardization  
29                         law, and other relevant and existing laws.

30                         Sec. 12. *Physical and Medical Examination Requirements.* — No person may  
31                         arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing and combat

1 sports match without a physical and diagnostic examination for each participating  
2 professional boxer or combatant conducted by a licensed physician accredited by the  
3 Commission who certifies that the boxer or combatant is physically fit to safely  
4 compete.

5 Sec. 13. *Mandatory Rest Period*. - There shall be an interval between boxing  
6 contests and combat sports matches which shall be referred to as mandatory rest  
7 period. The duration of the mandatory rest period shall be determined by the  
8 Commission

9 Sec. 14. *Emergency Medical Services*. - A professional boxing and combat  
10 sports match may be held only if:

- 11 (a) A licensed practicing physician, whose services are paid by the promoter and  
12 duly registered with the Commission, is continuously present at the ringside of  
13 the professional boxing and combat sports match;
- 14 (b) Ambulance services, including oxygen tanks and other medical personnel  
15 equipped with appropriate resuscitation equipment, are continuously present  
16 within the immediate vicinity of the ring; and
- 17 (c) A tertiary hospital is near the vicinity of the event: Provided, That a  
18 memorandum of agreement shall be executed between the promoter of the  
19 professional boxing and combat sports match and the hospital to ensure that  
20 the injured boxers and combatants shall be attended to in their facility with  
21 dispatch.

22 The absence of any of the aforementioned requirements shall be a cause for  
23 the cancellation of the permit to hold the professional boxing and combat sports  
24 match.

25 Sec. 15. *Social Pension and Health Care Benefits*. — All professional boxers and  
26 combatants shall be enrolled in the Social Security System (SS), National Health  
27 Insurance Program — Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the  
28 Home Development Mutual Fund or PAG -IBIG, and shall be entitled to all the benefits  
29 in accordance with the pertinent provisions of law. The SS shall develop and  
30 administer a separate social security program for boxers and combatants. This  
31 program may have different contribution, pension, and other benefit schemes. The

1 premium payments or contributions shall be shouldered by the promoter of the  
2 professional boxers and combatants.

3         Sec. 16. *Boxing and Other Combat Sports Officials*. - All the boxing and combat  
4 sports officials involved in any match shall not receive funds or compensation in any  
5 form, directly or indirectly, from the promoter or its agents. Such funds or  
6 compensation shall be coursing through and collected by the Commission for  
7 appropriate disbursement.

8         Sec. 17. *Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/ or injured Professional  
9 Boxers and Combatants*. - The Commission, in coordination with various stakeholders  
10 in the boxing and combat sports industry, shall establish an alternative livelihood  
11 training program and referral system.

12         Sec. 18. *Appropriations*. - The amount of needed to fund the implementation  
13 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

14         Sec. 19. *Boxers and Combatants Welfare Development Trust Fund*. — There  
15 shall be an independent and separate trust fund established under this Act to be  
16 administered by the Commission and exclusively used for the welfare benefits of  
17 professional boxers and combatants. The Commission shall be authorized to receive  
18 grants, donations, or endowments, whether from domestic or foreign sources, for  
19 purposes related to its functions, which shall accrue to the fund: Provided, that in  
20 cases of donations from foreign governments, acceptance thereof shall be subject to  
21 the approval of the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Secretary  
22 of Foreign Affairs.

23         Sec. 20. *Transitory Provision*. — Pending the organization of the Commission,  
24 the GAB shall continue to exercise its duties and functions in relation to professional  
25 boxing and combat sports. Such amount under the Boxe<sup>17</sup>s Welfare Fund under the  
26 GAB shall thereafter be transferred to the Boxers and Combatants Welfare  
27 Development Trust Fund of the Commission and shall form part of the initial  
28 appropriations of the Commission.

29         Sec. 21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*. — The Commission, in  
30 consultation with the DOH, Department of Education (DEPED), Commission on Higher  
31 Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA),  
32 Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Philippine

1 Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), PhilHealth, Social Security System  
2 (SSS), and other concerned agencies shall promulgate and issue the implementing  
3 rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act within sixty (60) days upon its approval:  
4 Provided, That failure to promulgate the IRR shall not prevent the implementation of  
5 this Act upon its effectivity.

6 Sec. 22. *Repealing Clause.* — Section 7 of Executive Order No. 392, series of  
7 1950, is hereby amended. Any other law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
8 order, rules or regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this  
9 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

10 Sec. 23. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held  
11 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby  
12 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

13 Sec. 24. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
14 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general  
15 circulation

16 *Approved,*