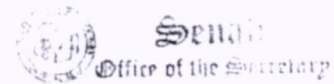



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



SENATE

'19 JUL -2 P2:07

S.B. No. 193

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over the past decades, the Philippines has produced a number of International Boxing Champions and Combat Sports Titles as well. These achievements show that Filipino boxers and combatants indeed possess superior physical strength, skills, and talents, which if given the proper support of the State, will ensure our promising fighters top ranks in the world boxing and combat sports arena.

While giving honor and glory to our country, our boxers and combatants risk their lives and limbs in these sports. Some even met their untimely death in the bout due to the lack, if not absence, of safety and emergency medical services, while some face retirement without any kind of financial assistance or access to the medical care. Most often, we hear legends in said fields who do not have pension benefits.

The boxing and combat sports are not given sufficient attention by the concerned government authorities. Considering the growing popularity, the growing community of those who engage in these sports and the number of champions it produced for the country, it is about time that we give due attention to the boxing and combat sports and to all our professional boxing and combatant champions.

In this regard, this proposed bill seeks to establish the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission to be the single agency that will focus and steer the skills and talents of the youth towards its proper direction, to provide and implement the necessary welfare incentives and benefits long overdue to all professional boxers and combatants who have brought honor and prestige to our country.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

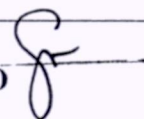
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AN ACT  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in  
Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission Act of 2019”.

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

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

- a) **Boxer** – means an individual who fights another in a boxing match;
- b) **Combat Sports** – means any of the following or a combination of any of the following:
  1. Boxing or fist-fighting in any of its styles;
  2. Kickboxing in any of its styles;
  3. Any sport, martial art or activity that involves in accordance with the applicable regulation, striking, hitting, grappling, throwing and/or punching opponents.
- c) **Combatant** – means a person who engages in combat sport as a contestant in professional combat sport contests;
- d) **License** – shall refer to a document issued by the Commission authorizing a person or entity to perform duties as a privilege connected with professional boxing and combat sports;



- 1 e) **Manager** – means a person who receives compensation for service as an agent or  
2 representative of a professional boxer or combatant;  
3  
4 f) **Permit** – shall refer to a document issued by the Commission authorizing a person  
5 or entity to hold, promote or engage in the conduct or operation of a professional  
6 boxing match;  
7  
8 g) **Professional Boxer** – shall refer to a boxer who is issued a license by the  
9 Commission to receive a sum of money or other compensation as a salary or prize  
10 money for fighting in a boxing match;  
11  
12 h) **Professional boxing match** – shall refer to a boxing match between professional  
13 boxers that shall receive money or other compensation for fighting in the said  
14 match, but shall not refer to a boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur sports  
15 organization; and  
16  
17 i) **Promoter** – shall refer to a person, group of persons, or an entity, licensed as such  
18 by the Commission and primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and  
19 producing a professional boxing match. The term “promoter” does not include a  
20 hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment hosting or sponsoring a  
21 professional boxing promotion unless – (i) the hotel, casino, resort, or other  
22 commercial establishment is primarily responsible for organizing, promoting and  
23 producing the promotion; and (ii) there is no other person primarily responsible  
24 for organizing, promoting and producing the promotion;  
25

26 **SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission.*** – To  
27 carry out the above declared policy, the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission,  
28 hereinafter referred to as the Commission, is hereby created. The Commission shall be  
29 attached to the Office of the President and have the same status as a national regulatory  
30 agency.  
31

32 **SEC. 5. *Objectives.*** – The Commission shall have the following objectives:  
33

- 34 a) To strengthen professional boxing and combat sports in the Philippines and  
35 promote the development of world-class professional boxers and combatants; and  
36 b) To establish policies related to professional boxing and combat sports, to regulate  
37 professional boxing and combat sports and to protect the welfare of professional  
38 boxers and combatants.  
39

40 **SEC. 6. *Composition.*** – The Commission be composed of a Chairman and four (4)  
41 members that shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines: *Provided*, That the  
42 Chairman and two (2) of the members shall be chosen from nominees of the Philippine  
43 Sports Commission (PSC), one (1) member chosen from the nominee of the Department of  
44 Health (DOH), and one (1) member from the private sector.  
45

46 Nominations by the PSC and the DOH shall be submitted to the Office of the  
47 President thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the term of office of incumbents or within  
48 thirty (30) days from the occurrence of any vacancy in the Commission. Said nominees shall  
49 have nationally recognized experience and comprehensive knowledge in professional boxing  
50 and combat sports activities and known integrity.

1 **SEC. 7. Term of Office.** – The term of office of the Commissioners shall be six (6) years:  
2 *Provided*, That no vacancy shall be filled except for the unexpired portion of any term. The  
3 Chairman and members of the Commission may be suspended or removed by the President of  
4 the Philippines.

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

11  
12 **SEC. 9. Allowances and Per Diems.** – The members of the Commission shall receive a *per*  
13 *diem* for each meeting actually attended by them at the rates set by the Governance  
14 Commission for GOCCs (GCG) in accordance with the rules pursuant to Republic Act No.  
15 10149.

16  
17 **SEC. 10. Powers and Duties of the Commission.** The Commission shall have the following  
18 powers and duties:

- 19  
20 (a) To formulate, review and update the rules and procedures related to professional  
21 boxing in the Philippines in conformity with international standards in order to  
22 regulate boxing and combat sports for the accomplishment of its objectives;  
23  
24 (b) To establish rules, set requirements, and collect fees for the procurement of a  
25 license by, or issuance and renewal of a license to a professional boxer,  
26 combatant, a coach or trainer of a professional boxer, a promoter for a  
27 professional boxing or combat sports match, or a judge or referee in said match,  
28 and the procurement of and issuance of a permit for a professional boxing or  
29 combat sports match; or the suspension or revocation of such license or permit, in  
30 order to limit participation in professional boxing or combat sports matches and  
31 other related activities to licensed and appropriately fit individuals;  
32  
33 (c) To formulate, initiate, plan and implement a national policy for the development  
34 of professional boxing and combat sports in the country;  
35  
36 (d) To establish a consultative mechanism which shall provide a forum for continuing  
37 dialogues between all stakeholders in the implementation of all laws, policies,  
38 programs and projects relating to boxing and combat sports;  
39  
40 (e) To seek or request the assistance and support of any government agency, office or  
41 instrumentality including government-owned and controlled corporations, local  
42 government units as well as non-governmental organizations or institutions in  
43 pursuit of its policies;  
44  
45 (f) To establish and maintain linkages with international boxing organizations or  
46 institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign governments in order to facilitate  
47 and ensure the participation of Filipino professional boxers and combatants in  
48 international events;  
49



- (g) To determine and set a safety standard for and to ensure that emergency medical personnel and services are available in every professional boxing match and combat sports in the Philippines;
- (h) To establish a system of registration and licensing of boxers, combatants, referees, trainers, seconds, cutman and other personnel necessary for the boxing and combat sports;
- (i) To maintain an integrated registry of professional boxers, combatants, coaches, trainers, judges, referees, and promoters who will comprise the registered stakeholders of the industry;
- (j) To act as a quasi-judicial board when it shall deem necessary to initiate, undertake, hear and decide any investigation for any violation of its rules and regulations concerning professional boxing and combat sports and, in connection therewith, shall have the power to issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum*;
- (k) To allocate resources for the implementation of national policies related to boxers and combatants;
- (l) To submit an annual report on the implementation of this Act to the President and to Congress; and
- (m) To perform such other functions as may be necessary to effectively and efficiently carry out the provisions of this Act. The functions of the Games and Amusement Board (GAB) as well as other entities related to boxing and combat sports are hereby transferred to the Commission.

**SEC. 11. Secretariat.** The Commission shall establish a secretariat, which shall be headed by an executive director and such other technical and administrative staff as may be needed and as determined by the Commission. The secretariat shall implement the policies and programs approved by the Commission and administer its day to day functions. Their salaries, allowances and other emoluments shall be determined by the Commission in accordance with civil service rules, salary standardization law, and other relevant and existing laws.

**SEC. 12. Physical and Medical Examination Requirements.** - No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing and combat sports match without a physical and diagnostic examination for each participating professional boxer or combatant by an accredited and licensed physician of the Commission, pursuant to existing rules and regulations, certifying whether or not the boxer or combatant is physically fit to safely compete, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Commission.

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

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

- 1 (a) A licensed practicing physician, whose services are paid by the promoter and duly  
2 registered with the Commission, is continuously present at the ringside of the  
3 professional boxing and combat sports match;  
4  
5 (b) Ambulance services, including oxygen tanks and other medical personnel equipped  
6 with appropriate resuscitation equipment continuously present on the ringside; and  
7  
8 (c) A tertiary hospital is near the vicinity of the event: *Provided*, That a memorandum of  
9 agreement shall be executed between the promoter of the professional boxing and  
10 combat sports match and said hospital to ensure the injured boxers and combatants  
11 shall be attended to in their facility with dispatch.  
12

13 Absence of the aforementioned requirement shall be a cause for the cancellation of  
14 the permit to hold the scheduled professional boxing and combat sports match.  
15

16 **SEC.15. Social Pension and Health Care Benefits.** - All professional boxers and combatants  
17 shall be enrolled in the Social Security System (SSS), National Health Insurance Program-  
18 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, and the Home Development Mutual Fund or PAG-  
19 IBIG, an shall be entitled to all the benefits in accordance with the pertinent provision  
20 provided by law. The SSS shall develop and administer a separate and special social security  
21 program for boxers and combatants. This special program may have different contribution,  
22 pension and other benefit schemes. Premium payments or contributions shall be shouldered  
23 by the professional boxers and combatant's promoter.  
24

25 **SEC.16. Boxing and Other Combat Sports Officials.** - All the boxing and combat sports  
26 officials involved in any boxing event or combat match shall not receive funds or  
27 compensation, in any form, directly or indirectly, from the promoter or its agents. Such funds  
28 shall be coursed through and collected by the Commission for appropriate disbursement.  
29  
30

31 **SEC.17. Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/ or Injured Professional Boxers**  
32 **and Combatants.** - The Commission, in coordination with various stakeholders in the boxing  
33 and combat sports industry, shall establish an alternative livelihood training program and  
34 referral system.  
35

36 **SEC. 18. Appropriations.** - The amount of One hundred fifty million pesos (P  
37 150,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act, sourced from  
38 the President's Contingent Fund. Thereafter, the amount needed to implement this Act shall  
39 be included in the General Appropriations Act.  
40

41 **SEC. 19. Boxers and Combatants Welfare Development Trust Fund.** - There shall be an  
42 independent and separate trust fund established under this Act, to be administered by the  
43 Commission and exclusively used for the welfare benefits of professional boxers and  
44 combatants. The Commission shall be authorized to receive grants, donations, endowment  
45 from various sources, domestic or foreign, for purposes related to their function, which shall  
46 accrue to the said fund: *Provided*, That in cases of donations from foreign governments,  
47 acceptance thereof shall be subject to the prior clearance and approval of the President of the  
48 Philippines upon recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.  
49



1 **SEC.20. *Transitory Provision*** - Pending the organization of the Commission, the GAB shall  
2 continue to exercise the duties and functions in relation to professional boxing and combat  
3 sports.

4  
5 Such amount under the Boxers' Welfare Fund, under the GAB shall then be  
6 transferred to the Boxers' Welfare Development Trust Fund of the Commission and will form  
7 part of the initial appropriations of the Commission.  
8  
9

10 **SEC.21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)***. - The Commission in consultation  
11 with the DOH, the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education  
12 (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the  
13 Department of Finance (DOF), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the Philippine  
14 Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office  
15 (PCSO), the PhilHealth, among others, and other concerned agencies shall promulgate and  
16 issue the IRR within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act: *Provided*, That the failure of  
17 the Commission to promulgate the rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation  
18 of this Act upon its effectivity.  
19

20 **SEC.22. *Repealing Clause***. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive orders, rules  
21 or regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
22 repealed or modified accordingly.  
23

24 **SEC. 23. *Separability Clause*** .- If any part or provision of this Act shall be held  
25 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall  
26 continue to be in full force and effect.  
27

28 **SEC.24. *Effectivity Clause***. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
29 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
30  
31  
32  
33

*Approved,*