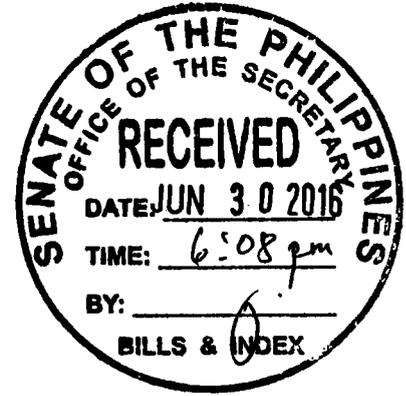


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



SENATE
S.B. No. 191

INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION THEREBY
STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S STANDING IN BOXING SPORTS,
ENSURING THE WELFARE OF FILIPINO BOXERS,
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

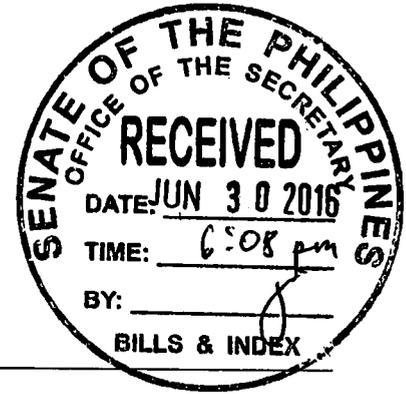
Over the past decades, the Philippines did not only produce World Class Boxing Champions but a number of International Boxing Champions as well. These achievements show that Filipino boxers indeed possess superior physical strength, skills and talents, which if given the proper support of the State, will ensure our promising boxers top ranks in the world boxing arena.

While giving honor and glory to our country, international Filipino boxers risk their lives and limbs in this sport. 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 medical care. Most often, we hear many of our boxing legends do not have pension benefits.

The boxing sport, now under the supervision of the Games and Amusement Board, is not given the proper and appropriate attention it deserves. Considering the growing popularity of this sport and the number of champions it has produced for the country, it is about time that we give due attention and consideration to this sport and to all our professional boxing champions. Hence, this proposed bill seeks to establish the Philippine Boxing 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 who have brought honor and prestige to our country.

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

EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO



SENATE

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

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1
2
3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Boxer’s
4 Welfare act of 2013”.

5
6 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of the State to give
7 priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and
8 nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote human liberation and development. The
9 State shall promote excellence in boxing sports by establishing a national agency to create a
10 policy to set proper directions for the development and safety of professional boxers and
11 providing for the welfare of boxer, coaches, trainers, and support to other stakeholders
12 competing for the country.

13
14 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms
15 shall be defined as follows:

- 16
17 a) **Commission** – shall refer to the Philippine Boxing Commission;
18
19 b) **Boxer registry** – shall refer to any entity certified by the Philippine Boxing
20 Commission for the purpose of maintaining records and identification of boxers;
21
22 c) **License** – shall refer to a document issued by the Commission authorizing a
23 person or entity to perform duties as a privilege connected with professional
24 boxing;
25
26 d) **Matches** – shall refer to the pairing of boxers in a contest or in a bout;
27
28 e) **Matchmaker** – shall refer to a person that proposes, selects, and arranges the
29 boxers to participate in a professional boxing promotion;
30

- 1 f) **Permit** – shall refer to a document issued by the Commission authorizing a person
2 or entity to hold, promote or engage in the conduct or operation of professional
3 boxing;
4
- 5 g) **Professional Boxer** – shall refer to any individual athlete who is paid a sum of
6 money and other compensation as a salary or prize money for participating in a
7 bout or in a professional boxing contest;
8
- 9 h) **Permit** – shall refer to a document issued by the Commission authorizing a person
10 or entity to hold, promote or engage in the conduct or operation of professional
11 boxing;
12
- 13 i) **Professional Boxing Promotion** – shall refer to a boxing contest held in the
14 Philippines between individuals for financial compensation but shall not refer to a
15 boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur sports organization;
16
- 17 j) **Promoter** – shall refer to a person or persons primarily responsible for
18 organizing, promoting, and producing a professional boxing promotion. The term
19 “promoter” does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial
20 establishment hosting or sponsoring a professional boxing promotion unless – (i)
21 the hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment is primarily
22 responsible for organizing, promoting and producing the promotion; and (ii) there
23 is no other person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting and producing
24 the promotion;
25
- 26 k) **Sanctioning Organization** – shall refer to an organization that sanctions
27 professional boxing promotions in the Philippines – (i) between who are residents
28 of different countries; or (ii) that are advertised, otherwise promoted, or
29 broadcasted (including closed circuit television) in a country other than the
30 Philippines
31
32

33 II. THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION

34
35 **SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Boxing Commission.*** – There is hereby
36 created the Philippine Boxing Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, which
37 shall be directly under the administrative supervision of the Office of the President.
38

39 **SEC. 5. *Objectives of the Commission.*** – The objectives of the Commission
40 are as follows:
41

- 42 a) To establish uniform rules and procedures related to boxing;
43
- 44 b) To set proper directions for the sports of boxing towards developing world-class
45 professional boxers to bring honor to the country;
46
- 47 c) To provide safety procedures to protect boxers from physical and financial
48 exploitation;
49

- 1 d) To provide for a comprehensive health care benefits, alternative livelihood
2 program, a system of life insurance, reliable death benefits, and other benefits for
3 all boxers who competed and won in international boxing events sanctioned by the
4 Commission.
5

6 **SEC. 6. Powers of the Commission.** – The Commission shall have the
7 following powers:
8

- 9 a) To appoint the officers and other personnel of the Commission and fix their
10 compensation, allowances and other emoluments, subject to civil service
11 applicable laws, rules and regulations;
12
13 b) To suspend, dismiss or otherwise discipline for cause, any employee, and/or
14 approve or disapprove the appointment, transfer or detail of employees , subject to
15 the provisions of existing laws and regulations;
16
17 c) To enter into contracts in furtherance of the purposes of this Act;
18
19 d) To acquire, use and control any land, building, facilities, equipment, instrument,
20 tools, and rights required or otherwise necessary for the accomplishment of the
21 objectives of the Commission;
22
23 e) To issue rules and regulations in pursuance of the provisions of this Act; and
24
25 f) To perform any and all other acts incidental to or required by virtue of its creation.
26

27 **SEC. 7. Functions of the Commission.** – The Commission shall have the
28 following functions:
29

- 30 a) To formulate, initiate, plan and implement a national policy for the development
31 of the sport of boxing in the country;
32
33 b) To maintain an integrated boxer registry for the purposes of maintaining records
34 and identification of boxers;
35
36 c) 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 relative to boxing;
39
40 d) 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 pursuance of its policies;
44
45 e) 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 in international boxing
48 events;
49

- 1 f) To formulate, initiate, plan and implement a comprehensive and progressive
2 health care program, alternative livelihood program, a system of life insurance,
3 reliable death benefits and other benefits for all boxer who competed and won in
4 international boxing events sanctioned by the Commission;
5
6 g) To formulate and implement an insurance system through the Social Security
7 System (SSS) and/or private insurance companies for qualified professional
8 boxers;
9
10 h) To provide, supervise and ensure that emergency medical personnel and services
11 are available in every boxing competition, local and abroad;
12
13 i) To establish a system of registration and licensing of boxers, referees, trainer,
14 seconds, cutman and other personnel necessary for the boxing sport;
15
16 j) To allocate resources for the implementation of national policies related to boxers;
17
18 k) To submit an annual report on the implementation of this Act to the President and
19 to the Congress; and
20
21 l) To perform such other functions as may be necessary to effectively and efficiently
22 carry out the provisions of this act. The functions of the Games and Amusement
23 Board (GAB) as well as other entities related to boxing are hereby transferred to
24 the Commission.
25

26 **SEC. 8. *Membership of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall be
27 composed of a Chairman who – (a) has extensive experience in professional boxing activities
28 or in a field directly related to professional sports; (b) is of outstanding character and
29 recognized integrity; and (c) is selected on the basis of training, experience and qualifications
30 and without regard to party affiliation and six (6) Members to be appointed by the President:
31 Provided that of the six (6) Members, there shall be one (1) representative from the Boxing
32 Promoters' Association, one (1) representative from Boxing Managers' Association, one (1)
33 representative from Boxing Trainers' Association, one (1) representative from retired
34 professional boxers, one (1) General Counsel, who has extensive experience in litigation or
35 policies directly or indirectly related to professional sports and one (1) Physician, who has
36 extensive experience in sports medicine. The Member-Physician shall be the head of the
37 Medical Advisory Board of the Commission.
38

39 **SEC. 9. *Term of Office.*** – The term of office of the commissioners shall be
40 four (4) years: Provided, that no vacancy shall be filled except for the unexpired portion of
41 any term; and provided, further, that any member of the Commission whose term of office
42 has expired shall remain in office until his successor shall have been duly appointed and
43 qualified. The Chairman and members of the Commission may be suspended or removed by
44 the President of the Philippines.
45

46 **SEC. 10. *The Secretariat.*** -- The Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive
47 Director, appointed by the Commission, and such other technical and administrative staff as
48 may be needed and as determined by the Commission, who shall be tasked to implement the
49 policies and programs approved by the commission and to supervise all aspects of

1 professional boxing. Their salaries, allowances and other emoluments shall be determined by
2 the Commission in accordance with Civil Service rules and other relevant and existing laws.

3
4 **SEC 11. *Meetings and Quorums.*** – The Commission shall meet regularly once
5 a week and as often as the exigencies of the service may demand, upon the call of the
6 Chairman or upon the request of three (3) members of the Commission. The vote of a
7 majority of all the members shall be necessary for the adoption of any rule, resolution or
8 decision of the Commission.

9
10 **SEC. 12. *Allowances and Per Diems.*** – The Chairman of the Commission shall
11 receive a monthly allowance of eight thousand pesos and a per diem not to exceed five
12 hundred pesos for each meeting actually attended by him: Provided, that such allowance and
13 per diems shall not exceed twelve thousand pesos during one month.

14
15 The other members of the Commission shall receive a monthly commutable
16 allowance of six thousand pesos and a per diem not to exceed five hundred pesos for each
17 meeting actually attended by them: Provided, that such allowance and per diems shall not
18 exceed ten thousand pesos during any one month for each member.

19
20
21 **III. SAFETY STANDARD**

22
23
24 **SEC. 13. *The Medical Advisory Board.*** – The Medical Advisory Board assists
25 and advises the member of the Commission on issues affecting the safety and health of
26 boxers. The Board duties include preparing and submitting to the Commission appropriate
27 standards for the physical and mental examination of the boxers, advising the commission as
28 to the physical and mental fitness of a boxer and recommending physicians to be licensed as
29 ringside physicians for the Commission.

30
31 The Board shall prepare and submit recommendations for revisions in the law
32 necessary to protect the health of the boxers.

33
34 **SEC 14. *Physical and Medical Examination Requirements.*** – No person may
35 arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing promotion without a
36 physical and diagnostic examination of each boxer by an accredited and licensed physician of
37 the Philippine Boxing Commission, pursuant to existing rules and regulations, certifying
38 whether or not the boxer is physically fit to safely compete, which shall include but not
39 limited to the following:

- 40
41 a) Chest X-ray (PA view);
42
43 b) Ophthalmological examination;
44
45 c) Neuro-psychological test;
46
47 d) Drug testing for THC (Marijuana) and Methamphetamine (Shabu);
48

- 1 e) Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HepBsAg) – quantitative exams for all new licenses
2 and returning boxers with previously positive results and qualitative exams for
3 renewals;
4
5 f) CT Scan of the Brain;
6
7 g) Gynecological condition result for female boxers;
8
9 h) Urinalysis;
10
11 i) Complete Blood Count (CBC);
12
13 j) HIV test (for licensed professional boxers fighting abroad)
14
15 k) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), as may be needed, upon recommendation
16 of the Commission physician.
17

18 All other personnel and staff engaged in and involved in the boxing promotion shall
19 be subjected to such physical and medical examinations, as may be determined by the
20 Commission. Items (a) to (i) shall be mandatory physical and medical examination
21 requirements. Items (j), (k) and (l) shall be required in cases determined by the Commission.
22 Expenses for the physical and medical examination, as required, shall be for the account of
23 the Manager.
24

25 **SEC. 15. *Emergency Medical Services.*** – A professional boxing promotion may
26 be held only if:
27

- 28 a) A licensed practicing physician, whose services are paid by the promoter and duly
29 registered with the Commission, is continuously present at the ringside of the
30 professional boxing promotion;
31
32 b) Ambulances services, including oxygen tanks and other medical personnel
33 equipped with appropriate resuscitation equipment continuously present on the
34 ringside;
35
36 c) A tertiary hospital is near the vicinity of the event: Provided, that a Memorandum
37 of Agreement shall be executed between the promoter of the boxing promotion
38 and said hospital to ensure the injured boxers shall be attended to in their facility
39 with dispatch.
40

41 Absence of the aforementioned requirements shall be a cause for the cancellation of
42 the permit to hold the scheduled boxing promotion.
43

44 **SEC. 16. *Mandatory Rest Period.*** – There shall be an interval between boxing
45 contests which shall be referred to as the mandatory rest period. The mandatory rest period
46 shall vary depending on the extent of damage brought about by the knockout (KO) or
47 technical knockout, as determined by the Commission's Physician, based on the last boxing
48 promotion's ringside physician report, which shall not be less than ninety (90) days. In cases
49 of Kos and TKOs, there shall be physical and mental examinations to continue until one
50 month after the event, the report of which shall be the basis for determination of whether or

1 not the affected boxer may still compete after the ninety (90) day mandatory rest period. In
2 case a boxer has received a serious concussion, he shall not be able to compete again until he
3 has been examined and has been certified to by the Commission's physician as fit to compete
4 again.

5 6 **IV. BOXER INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS**

7
8 **SEC. 17. Insurance.** – The Commission, in carrying out the regulation of
9 professional boxing promotions, shall require that a promoter provide insurance coverage, in
10 a minimum amount of at least one hundred thousand pesos (PHP 100,000.00) for every
11 professional boxing promotion, through a private insurance company, to cover an injury
12 sustained while engaged in that boxing promotion.

13
14 **SEC. 18. Health Care Benefits** – All professional boxers shall be enrolled in the
15 National Health Insurance Program (PhilHealth) to enable them to receive and avail of an
16 adequate package of personal health services including, but not limited to, in-patient hospital
17 care, out-patient care, emergency and transfer services, and other supplementary health
18 benefits, as may be provided in the PhilHealth. The cost of premium contribution and the
19 standard monthly contributions shall be shouldered by the Commission.

20
21 In case of hospitalization in any government hospital or clinic, any amount in excess
22 of PhilHealth benefit shall be shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
23 (PCSO), provided that the boxer shall comply with the requirement for qualification and
24 grant of health care assistance to be extended by the PCSO consistent with and subject to
25 compliance with PCSO's existing rules and guidelines.

26
27 **SEC. 19. Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/or Injured**
28 **International Boxing Champions.** – The Commission, in coordination with various
29 stakeholders in the boxing industry, shall establish an alternative livelihood training program
30 and referral system for retired and/or injured boxing champions.

31
32 **SEC. 20. Death Benefits.** – Upon the death of a professional boxer, the primary
33 beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death benefit of Fifty thousand pesos (PHP
34 50,000.00) to cover funeral services and expenses: Provided, That if the primary beneficiary
35 are absent or otherwise incapable of claiming the benefits granted them under this Section,
36 the secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to the same.

37
38 **SEC. 21. Retirement Benefits.** – Professional Filipino boxers who won any
39 world title or championship in any international boxing competition duly sanctioned by the
40 recognized international sporting organization and bodies shall receive a lifetime retirement
41 pension of Fifteen thousand Pesos (PHP 15,000.00) monthly upon reaching the age of fifty
42 (50). Retirement benefits under this Act shall be separate and distinct from the mandatory
43 requirement benefits provided by existing laws.

44
45 The Commission is authorized to adjust the benefits provided in this section based on
46 studies, consultations, and public hearings with relevant agencies and entities.

47
48 However, no memorandum, order, or issuance shall diminish the prescribed
49 retirement incentive benefits.

1 of this Act: Provided, That copies of the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted
2 to the Committee on Games and Amusement of both Houses of Congress: Provided, Finally
3 that such rules and regulations shall take effect only upon publication in a newspaper of
4 general circulation.

5
6 **SEC. 28. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
7 executive orders, rules or regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of
8 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9
10 **SEC. 29. *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 shall
12 continue to be in full force and effect.

13
14 **SEC. 30. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

16
17 Approved,