

18 JUL -1 AM:04

SENATE

S. No. 33

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For decades, boxers have sacrificed greatly their physical well being for the love of the sport and to entertain boxing fans all over the world. International boxing champions risk their lives and limbs to give honor and glory to our country.

Yet all too often these fighters wind up living in poverty, a mere shadow of their former greatness. These stories are all too familiar and bespeak the need to eradicate this blemish on the sport of boxing. While our country is proud of the accomplishments of our international boxing champions, many struggle financially as they retire or experience boxing related injuries.

Great many world fighters who have thrilled us over the years, fighting for a championship belt, face retirement without any kind of financial assistance or access to medical care. Many suffer from depression, alcohol and substance abuse, rage disorders, homelessness or indigency and a total lack of financial awareness. Many boxers suffer from the terrible effects of boxer's syndrome (pugilistic dementia) and injuries in the ring, that can occur in a split second. Many of the causes of death involve profuse swelling on the brain due to fight related injuries. Often, many of our boxing fighters do not have proper health care and pension benefits. Filipino boxer Z Gorres comes to mind.

This proposed measure seeks to correct such issue by creating a mandatory boxer insurance and pension fund. It seeks to grant retirement incentives to future and former international boxing champions who have garnered world titles or world championship title. As such, a monthly pension benefit in the amount of at least Php20,000.00 shall be awarded to international boxing champions upon reaching the age of 45 years. Boxers who are incapacitated or injured while pursuing their boxing careers are also covered by this measure.

In the event of death, this measure proposes that the surviving spouse, if any, shall receive the pension benefits due to the boxer. Children of international boxing champions shall be awarded a full scholarship grant by the Government up to the collegiate level.

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

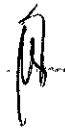

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

10 JUL -1 110:04

SENATE

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE INTERNATIONAL BOXER WELFARE, INSURANCE
AND PENSION SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "**Boxer Welfare, Insurance and Pension Act of 2010.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote sports excellence and develop Filipino athletes into international caliber competitors and to make available to them the safety net mechanisms to protect their welfare and wellbeing.

As such, the State shall promote policies that seek to provide welfare, insurance and pension system to our boxers in recognition of the honor and glory they have given our country.

SEC. 3. Establishment of a Boxer Beneficiary Registry. - There is hereby established a Boxer Beneficiary Registry which shall be administered by the Games and Amusement Board (GAB).

The Games and Amusement Board shall be responsible for establishing a databank and registry of all Filipino international boxing champions in order to identify and monitor the beneficiaries under this Act.

The information contained in the Boxer Beneficiary Registry shall include basic identification, financial, medical and boxing record information.

SEC. 4. Monthly Pension Benefits for International Boxing Champions.
- Subject to the provisions of existing laws, Filipino boxers who have won international

boxing titles shall be awarded a monthly pension in the amount of Twenty thousand pesos (Php20,000.00) upon reaching the age of 45 years.

SEC. 5. *Compulsory Health Insurance Coverage.* – All professional boxers shall be enrolled in the National Health Insurance Program of the Government to enable them to receive and avail of a adequate package of personal health services including, but not limited to in-patient hospital care, out-patient care, emergency and transfer services, and other supplementary health benefits, as may be provided in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC). The cost of premium contribution and the standard monthly contributions shall be shouldered by the State.

Upon the passage of this Act, all professional boxers shall be automatically entitled to the full enjoyment and availment of essential health services, as contained in Republic Act No. 7875 or the National Health Insurance Act.

Professional boxers shall not be required to pay monthly contributions and all other fees or charges for them to be entitled to these benefits.

In the event of an international title bout held outside the country, the promoter of the boxer is hereby mandated to enroll the fighter in a comprehensive health insurance package; *Provided*, That the promoter shall shoulder the premium contribution and the standard monthly contributions; *Provided further*, That the National Government shall subsidize fifty percent (50%) of said contributions.

SEC. 6. *Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/or Injured International Boxing Champions.* – The Games and Amusement Board, in coordination with the various stakeholders in the boxing industry, shall establish an alternative livelihood training program and referral system for retired and/or injured international boxing champions.

The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Games and Amusement Board.

SEC. 7. *Pension Benefits to Surviving Spouse of International Boxing Champions.* – In the event of death of the international boxing champion, the legally surviving spouse of the international boxing champion shall receive the monthly pension due to the international boxer, as provided under Section 4 of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Educational Benefits to Children of International Boxing Champions.* - In recognition of the honor and glory given by international boxing champions to our country, at most two (2) children of each international boxing champions shall be awarded a full scholarship grant and be admitted to any

government-owned school, college, university or institution and all school fees, including tuition, library, laboratory, medical, physical education, diploma and graduation fees shall be at the expense of the Government.

The children who shall avail of these educational benefits shall be chosen by the boxer, in consultation with his/her spouse. If the boxer is deceased, the surviving spouse shall choose. If both the boxer and his spouse are deceased, the two eldest children who have not acquired a college degree shall be awarded the scholarship grant provided under this Section.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within Ninety (90) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Games and Amusement Board, in consultation with the various stakeholders in the boxing industry, shall prescribe the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary to effectively implement of the provisions of this measure.

SEC. 10. *Funding.* - There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act the amount of Fifty Million Pesos (Php 50,000,000.00) for the establishment of the International Boxer Pension Fund which shall be administered by the Games and Amusement Board.

Thereafter, such amount needed to implement this Act shall be included in the Annual Appropriations of the GAB.

SEC. 11. *Authority to Accept Donations.* – The GAB is hereby authorized to accept donations, contributions, grants in cash or in kind, from various sources, domestic or foreign to augment the International Boxer Pension Fund, in order to attain the objectives of this Act; *Provided*, That any donation, contribution or financial aid which may be made to the GAB shall be exempt from taxes and shall constitute allowable deductions in full from the income of the donors or contributors.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of instructions or proclamations inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,