

S. No. 2898

H. No. 5912

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand fifteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10699]

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF INCENTIVES GRANTED TO NATIONAL ATHLETES AND COACHES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9064, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL ATHLETES, COACHES AND TRAINERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 2001" OR "SPORTS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 2001"

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 "National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act".

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State promotes excellence in sports by looking after the welfare of national athletes and coaches competing for the country and by providing benefits and incentives for national athletes and other athletes who win in international sports competitions and bring honor and recognition to the country.

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

(a) *Athletes with disabilities* shall refer to persons with disabilities, as defined under Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons”, as amended, who are Filipino citizens, recognized and accredited by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the National Paralympic Committee of the Philippines (NPC PHIL), and who have represented the country in international sports competitions;

(b) *International sports competitions* shall refer to international sports competitions under the following categories:

(1) Regular major competitions such as the Summer Olympic Games, Winter Olympic Games, Asian Games, Asian Winter Games, Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, Youth Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Para Games, Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Asian Beach Games and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Para Games;

(2) World-level championships held at least every two (2) years with at least forty-five (45) countries participating by sport;

(3) Asian-level competitions held at least every two (2) years with at least twenty-five (25) countries participating by sport; and

(4) Qualifying competitions for World-level games with at least ten (10) countries participating.

Competitions granting prize money shall not be included.

(c) *National athletes* shall refer to athletes including persons with disabilities who are Filipino citizens, members

of the national training pool, recognized and accredited by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and the PSC, including athletes with disabilities (AWD) who are recognized and accredited by the NPC PHIL and the PSC and who have represented the country in international sports competitions; and

(d) *National coaches* shall refer to coaches of national athletes, who are Filipino citizens, members of the national coaches training pool, recognized and accredited by the PSC and the POC, or the PSC and NPC PHIL in the case of AWD coaches who have represented the country as official coaches to national athletes in international sports competitions.

SEC 4. *Benefits and Privileges for National Athletes and Coaches.* – Any national athlete and coach, as defined herein and who is currently registered as such, shall be entitled to the following:

(a) The grant of twenty percent (20%) discount from all establishments relative to the utilization of transportation services, hotels and other lodging establishments, restaurants and recreation centers and purchase of medicine and sports equipment anywhere in the country for the actual and exclusive use or enjoyment of the national athlete and coach;

(b) Minimum of twenty percent (20%) discount on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, carnivals, and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusement for the actual and exclusive use and enjoyment of the national athlete and coach;

(c) Free medical and dental consultations in government hospitals and similar establishments anywhere in the country;

(d) Coverage in the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) through the sponsored program of the PSC;

(e) A comprehensive social security program to be formulated by the Social Security System within one hundred eighty (180) days from the approval of this Act;

(f) Priority in existing livelihood programs being undertaken by various government agencies subject to the guidelines and qualifications by the implementing body;

(g) Priority in national housing programs, affordable "pabahay" loans and other housing opportunities subject to the guidelines and qualifications set by the National Housing Authority (NHA) or the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF); and

(h) Use of living quarters and training centers set up and maintained by the PSC for the exclusive use of national athletes while preparing and training for international competitions.

Such privately-owned establishments shall enjoy tax deductions equivalent to the discounts extended to the national athletes and coaches under paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof, subject to the rules and regulations to be issued by the Secretary of Finance, as recommended by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That the failure of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to promulgate the rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation of aforementioned benefits.

SEC. 5. Scholarship Benefits for National Athletes. - A national athlete who wins in a regular major international sports competition shall be entitled to scholarship benefits in the form of full tuition fees from state colleges or universities for a college or university degree. The winning athlete shall likewise be given priority in the availment of state college or university scholarship grants.

Likewise, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall give priority to winning national athletes who seek scholarship grants and study under their programs subject to the CHED and TESDA regulations and policies and qualifications for all applicants.