

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10240



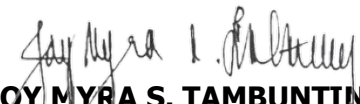
Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has a deep-rooted love for combat sports, and the nation has produced some of the best martial arts talent in the world. The country's recent performance in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics is truly a testament of the potential of professional boxing and combat sports in the Philippines. The country's national boxing team returned as the most bemedaled team in Tokyo Olympics with Nesthy Petecio winning the women's featherweight silver medal (making her the first Filipina Olympic boxing medalist), Carlo Paalam taking home the men's flyweight Olympic silver medal and Eumir Marcial bagging an Olympic bronze in the men's middleweight class. Prior to this latest stint, much of the country's Olympic medals were earned by our world class Filipino boxers.

Considering the potential of the field, it is only apt that the State support its growth by formulating and implementing a national policy for the development and growth of professional boxing and combat sports in the country. This measure seeks to strengthen the professional boxing and combat sports industry through the creation of Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission which shall encourage the discovery, training and development of world-class professional boxers and combatants, and ultimately protect and enhance their welfare. This measure also seeks to promote and make the country as an international/regional center for professional boxing and combat sports competition, training, convention, and tourism.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10240

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING AND COMBAT SPORTS COMMISSION 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 “Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission Act”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, promote human development, and contribute to economic growth and development.

The State shall provide focus to, and develop excellence in, professional boxing and combat sports and ensure the development and safety of Filipino professional boxers and combatants.

It shall also support the growth of professional boxing and combat sports industry, and shall promote the country as an international/regional center for professional boxing and combat sports competition, training, convention, and tourism.

It shall also harness the participation, dedication and technical expertise of stakeholders of the professional boxing and combat sports industry.

Towards these ends, the State shall establish a commission that will formulate and implement a national policy for the development and growth of professional boxing and combat sports.

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

- (a) Combat sports refer to 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; and

- (3) Any sport, martial art, or activity that involves, in accordance with the applicable regulation, striking, kicking, hitting, grappling, throwing and/or punching opponents.
- (b) Commission refers to the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission, created under Section 4 of this Act;
 - (c) License refers to a document, issued by the Commission, authorizing a person or entity to perform duties connected with professional boxing and combat sports;
 - (d) Manager refers to a person who acts as an agent or representative of a professional boxer or combatant, and receives compensation for such acts;
 - (e) Permit refers to a document, issued by the Commission, authorizing a person or entity to hold, promote or engage in the conduct or operation of a professional boxing or combat sports match;
 - (f) Professional boxer refers to a boxer who is issued a license by the Commission to fight in a professional boxing match for a sum of money or other compensation, such as a salary or prize money;
 - (g) 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 organized by an amateur sports organization;
 - (h) Professional combatant refers to a person who is issued a license by the Commission to fight in a professional combat sports match for a sum of money or other compensation, such as a salary or prize;
 - (i) Professional combat sports match refers to a sports match between professional combatants who shall receive money or other compensation for fighting in said match; and
 - (j) Promoter refers to a person, group of persons, or an entity, licensed as such by the 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, and producing the match; or (ii) there is no person, group of persons, or any other entity, who is primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing the match.

SEC. 4. Creation of the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission. – To carry out the above declared policies, the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission is hereby created. The Commission shall be directly under the administrative supervision of the Office of the President.

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

- (a) Support the continued growth of professional boxing and combat sports in the country;
- (b) Encourage the discovery, training and development of world-class professional boxers and combatants;
- (c) Protect and enhance the welfare of professional boxers and combatants; and
- (d) In collaboration with the private sector, national government agencies, and local government units (LGUs), promote and make the country as an international/regional center for professional boxing and combat sports competition, training, convention, and tourism

SEC. 6. Composition. – The Commission shall be composed of five (5) members, as follows:

- (a) A nationally-recognized advocate for the development and growth of professional boxing and combat sports in the country, as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) or his/her representative, Member;
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or his/her representative, Member;
- (d) The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) or his/her representative, Member; and
- (e) A representative of the professional boxing and combat sports industry, Member.

The representatives of the Secretaries of the DOH, DOT and DILG shall have a rank not lower than a Bureau Director and must have knowledge, experience or involved in: sports medicine and/or health emergency management, tourism planning or convention management, and boxing and combat sports development, respectively. The DILG Secretary may opt to designate the president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, or the League of Cities of the Philippines, or the League of Municipalities of the Philippines as his duly authorized representative to the Commission, in lieu of an official of the Department.

The Chairperson and the representative of the professional boxing and combat sports industry shall be selected and appointed by the President of the Philippines from nominees submitted by the professional boxing and combat sports industry.

SEC. 7. Term of Office. – The Chairperson and the representative of the professional boxing and combat sports industry shall have a term of six (6) years and may be reappointed by the President of the Philippines. Any appointment to a vacancy in the position of the Chairperson or the representative of the professional boxing and combat sports industry that occurs before the expiration of the term shall be for the unexpired portion of the term only.

The Chairperson and the industry representative may be suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines for just cause as provided by law.

SEC. 8. Meetings and Quorum. – The Commission shall meet regularly once a month or as often as the exigencies of the service may demand, upon the call of the Chairperson or upon the request of at least two (2) members of the Commission. The vote of a majority of the entire membership of the Commission shall be necessary for the adoption of any rule, resolution, or decision.

SEC. 9. Allowances and Per Diems. – The Chairperson and Members of the Commission shall be entitled to per diems, allowances and other reimbursable expenses as prescribed by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

SEC. 10. Powers and Duties of the Commission. – The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Formulate, initiate, plan, and implement a national policy for the growth of professional boxing and combat sports, and the discovery, training and development of professional boxers and combatants;
- (b) Formulate, promulgate, review, and update the rules and procedures in order to regulate professional boxing and combat sports, in conformity with international standards;
- (c) Establish rules, set requirements, and collect fees for the grant or renewal of a license to a professional boxer, combatant, coach, trainer, promoter, judge, referee, and other ring officials and personnel, and for the issuance of a permit for a professional boxing or combat sports match;
- (d) For violation of any rule or requirement, including the conditions for the issuance of a license or permit, impose administrative fines and penalties, including the suspension or revocation of a license or permit;
- (e) Act as a quasi-judicial body and, on its own motion or upon complaint of any interested party, initiate, hear, and decide any investigation for any violation of its rules and regulations and, in connection therewith, issue subpoena ad testificandum and subpoena duces tecum
- (f) Determine and set safety standards, including the presence and availability of emergency medical personnel and services, in all professional boxing and combat sports matches in the country;
- (g) Establish a system of registration and licensing of boxers, combatants, referees, trainers, seconds, cut man and other ring officials and personnel;
- (h) Maintain an integrated registry of professional boxers, combatants, coaches, trainers, judges, referees, promoters and other ring officials and personnel;
- (i) Seek or request the assistance and support of any government agency, office or instrumentality, including government-owned or controlled corporations, LGUs as well as nongovernmental organizations or institutions in pursuit of its policies and programs;
- (j) Establish a consultative mechanism, which shall provide a forum for continuing dialogue between and among all stakeholders, in the implementation of all laws, policies, programs, and projects relating to professional boxing and combat sports;
- (k) Establish and maintain linkages with international boxing and combat sports organizations or institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign governments, including the hosting of international conventions and conferences, for the enhancement of standards and regulations on the conduct of professional boxing and combat sports matches, on facilities

and equipment used therein, and the participation of professional boxers and combatants, particularly of Filipino professional boxers and combatants in international events;

- (l) Allocate resources for the implementation of national policies and programs related to professional boxers and combatants;
- (m) Submit an annual report on the implementation of this Act to the President and to Congress; and
- (n) Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary to effectively and efficiently carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. Organizational Structure. – Subject to the approval of the DBM, the Commission shall determine its organizational structure and staffing pattern, create offices, divisions, or units as it may deem necessary, and appoint its officers and employees in accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations. The remuneration structure for the positions in the staffing pattern shall strictly conform to Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the "Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989", as amended.

SEC. 12. Executive Director. – The Commission shall have a full-time Executive Director who shall be responsible for implementing the policies, rules, regulations and directives of the Commission; the management of the Commission's daily operations; and for coordinating and supervising the activities of the different offices, divisions, and units of the Commission.

The Executive Director shall have a term of six (6) years and may be reappointed. He shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the nomination of the Commission.

The nominee to the Executive Director position must be of known probity and integrity and shall have nationally recognized experience and comprehensive knowledge in professional boxing and combat sports, and preferably has relevant experience in the management of a government regulatory agency, policy formulation, adjudication, and program and project delivery and management.

SEC. 13. Physical, Medical and Neurologic Examination Requirements. – No person or entity can arrange, promote, organize, or produce a professional boxing and combat sports match without a physical, medical, neurologic and other diagnostic examinations being conducted on each participating professional boxer or combatant by a licensed physician, who is recognized by the Commission. The recognized licensed physician shall likewise certify that the professional boxer or combatant is physically fit to safely compete, in compliance with the requirements of the Commission.

SEC. 14. Mandatory Rest Period. – There shall be an interval in which professional boxers and combatants can compete in boxing contests and combat sports matches, which shall be referred to as mandatory rest period. The duration of the mandatory rest period shall be determined by the Commission.

SEC. 15. Emergency Medical Services. – A professional boxing and combat sports match may be held only if:

- (a) A licensed practicing physician, whose services are paid by the promoter and duly registered with the Commission, is continuously present at the ringside of the professional boxing and combat sports match;
- (b) Ambulance services, with appropriate equipment and competent personnel, shall be made available within the immediate vicinity of the ring by DOH-accredited ambulance service providers; and
- (c) A tertiary hospital is near the vicinity of the event.

The absence of any of the aforementioned requirements shall be a cause for the non-issuance or the immediate cancellation of the permit to hold . the professional boxing and combat sports match.

SEC. 16. Social Pension and Health Care Benefits. – All professional boxers and combatants shall be enrolled with the Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or PAG-IBIG, and shall be entitled to all the benefits in accordance with the pertinent provisions of law. The enrollment of professional boxers and combatants with, and the remittance of mandatory contributions to, these government agencies shall be done by the manager of the professional boxer or combatant: Provided, That in case the professional boxer or combatant is not represented by a manager, it is the professional boxer or combatant who shall register and remit his or her mandatory contributions.

The SSS shall develop and administer a separate social security program for professional boxers and combatants. This program, subject to actuarial studies, may have different contribution, pension, and other benefit schemes.

SEC. 17. Exemption from Travel Taxes and Fees. – A three-man professional boxing or combat sports delegation, composed of the professional boxer or combatant, the promoter or manager, and the trainer, to any international competition shall be exempt from the payment of travel tax, airport tax and any other travel related taxes or fees now or hereafter imposed by law or regulation.

SEC. 18. Alternative Livelihood Programs for Retired and/or injured Professional Boxers and Combatants. – The Commission, in coordination with various stakeholders in the professional boxing and combat sports industry, with the assistance of other government agencies and LGUs, shall establish or spearhead an alternative livelihood training program for retired and/or injured professional boxers and combatants.

SEC. 19. Compensation of Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Officials. – All professional boxing and combat sports officials involved in any match shall not receive funds or compensation in any form, directly or indirectly, from the promoter or its agents. Such funds or compensation shall be coursed through and collected by the Commission for appropriate disbursement.

SEC. 20. Professional Boxers and Combatants Welfare Development Trust Fund. – A Professional Boxers and Combatants Welfare Development Trust Fund is hereby established to complement the budget for welfare benefits and enhance and uplift the social and economic

opportunities and conditions of present and former professional boxers and combatants, including, but not limited to, medical and health services; housing and livelihood assistance; and financial assistance for education and capability building/training. The Commission shall set the qualifications and requirements in the disbursement of the Trust Fund.

It shall be administered by the Commission as a special account in any government bank. It shall be funded from administrative fines imposed by the Commission, and contributions in the form of endowments, grants and donations to the Trust Fund, which shall be exempted from donor and other taxes, charges or fees imposed by the government: Provided, That in cases of donations from foreign governments or other foreign institutions, acceptance thereof shall be subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

SEC. 21. Transitory Provisions. – Upon the organization of the Commission, the Boxing and Contact Sports Division of the GAB shall be abolished: Provided, That its powers and functions shall be absorbed by the Commission: Provided, further, That the officers and employees thereof shall continue in a holdover capacity until such time as the new officers and employees of the Commission shall have been duly appointed pursuant to the provisions of this Act. All qualified regular or permanent employees who may be transferred to the Commission shall not suffer any loss in seniority or rank or decrease in emoluments. Any employee who cannot be absorbed by the Commission shall be entitled to a separation pay under existing retirement laws.

All other functions, appropriations, funds, records, equipment, facilities, and other assets of the GAB that are pertaining to the development and regulation of professional boxing and combat sports shall be transferred to the Commission.

SEC. 22. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to fund the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the start of the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall, upon consultation with national government agencies, LGUs, and the different stakeholders in the professional boxing and combat sports industry, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC. 24. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, rules or regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 25. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 26. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,