

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5579

Introduced by **ATTY. MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO I**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The main objective of the **Philippine Jockeys Retirement Act of 2008** is to set the compulsory retirement age for jockeys at 50 years old.

If you are just a mere spectator of the game, you could not easily fathom and grasp on what it takes to become a horse jockey. Their physique is required to be in the tip-top shape at all times and should sustain the 100-pound limit. In practice, they are obliged to do strenuous activities with their mount and during the actual competition, they must compete at breakneck speed to engross the horse owner and likewise amuse the audience.

With age comes the physical deterioration of the mortal body. Age takes its toll and the rider would start to feel the wear and tear of his body once he reaches 50. His accustomed alertness will fade and dwindle and thus affects his riding aptitude. His vision fails, his metabolism slows down and he faces complexity in maintaining his required weight. Retirement, at this age, is now in the offing.

At present, all racehorse jockeys, who are all members of the New Philippine Jockeys' Association (NPJA), complain about their retirement age at 60 years old by virtue of Republic Act 1161, as amended by Republic 8282 (*Social Security Act of 1997*). The Philippine Racing Commission (*PHILRACOM*), which is the regulatory body governing the racing industry, has set the retirement age of jockeys at 55 years old, regardless of their mental and physical abilities. However, these retired jockeys shall still wait for five (5) years, or upon reaching 60 years old before they could reap their retirement benefits. Riding beyond the age of 50 places them at a higher risk of sustaining injury. Lowering the retirement age of jockeys is a must, in order for them to enjoy the fruits of their career and avoid accidents during actual race that have caused serious injuries, if not death, to both jockeys and racehorses.

In this regard, these jockeys who have already utilized the most productive years of their lives, will have ample time and opportunities to practice other horse-racing related professions such as horse trainers, or even train jockeys which is now very in-demand abroad.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

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AN ACT
AMENDING ARTICLE 287 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 442, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES BY ADDING A NEW SUB-ARTICLE REDUCING THE
RETIREMENT AGE OF RACEHORSE JOCKEYS FROM SIXTY (60) TO
FIFTY (50).

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

Section 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as **“The Race Horse Jockeys Retirement Act of 2008.”**

Section 2. **Retirement.** - A subsection after Article 287 of Presidential Decree No. 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines, is hereby inserted to read as follows:

“ART. 287-A. Retirement Age for Race Horse Jockeys. – A professional race horse jockey, who is duly licensed by the Philippine Racing Commission (PHILRACOM), upon reaching the age of fifty (50) years old which is hereby declared the compulsory retirement age for jockeys, may retire and shall be entitled to all the retirement benefits provided for under Article 287 of Presidential Decree 442.

Nothing in this sub-section shall deprive any jockey of benefits to which he may be entitled under existing laws or company policies or practices.”

Section 3. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Administrator of the Social Security System (SSS), the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Philippine Racing Commission (PHILRACOM) and the New Philippine Jockeys’ Association, Inc. (NPJA) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

Section 4. **Separability Clause.** – The provisions of this Act are hereby deemed separable. If any provision thereof is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions which shall remain in effect.

Section 5. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Section 6. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,