

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 583



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE PIA S. CAYETANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes that "the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry."

Student-Athletes are a pool of students who have exceptional talents and skills in sports that could be further honed and developed in a school setting. At a young age, they have to embrace a dual role – being a student and an athlete at the same time. Thus, this bill recognizes their special circumstance and aims to provide support and parameters on how they can thrive and excel in both fields of study and sports.

As a bill of rights for Student-Athletes, it endeavours to address issues and concerns encountered for many years by many Student-Athletes past and present as there is no existing law that promotes and protects their overall welfare.

It is the purpose of this bill to provide appropriate recognition and protection to the rights and general welfare of Student-Athletes encompassing academic, amateur sports, and mental and physical health aspects. On the other hand, it also acknowledges that these Student-Athletes are in a special situation and thus the bill also specifies the accompanying responsibilities that they have to fulfill to this end. Schools, athletic associations, Student-Athletes and their parents shall recognize and uphold the amateur nature of the programs and competitions that Student-Athletes participate in.

This bill also recognizes that Student-Athletes should be protected from any discriminatory policy that may restrict their participation in any field of amateur sports that they have chosen to participate and compete in and consequently hinder the development of their full potential as athletes and well-rounded citizens of our country.

Lastly, this bill recognizes the vital role of the schools and accredited athletic associations, not only in providing the opportunity and avenue for Student-Athletes to participate and excel in sports, but also ensuring the protection of Student-Athletes from physical harm, discrimination, and other potentially harmful consequences of training and competing in their respective fields of amateur sports.

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

Pia S. Cayetano
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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Magna Carta of Student-
2 Athletes."
3

4 **SEC. 2. Coverage.** This Act shall apply to Student-Athletes of any school that
5 conducts athletic programs and competitions.
6

7 **SEC. 3. Declaration of Policy.** - Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution
8 recognizes the role of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to
9 quality education at all levels, and to take appropriate steps to make such education
10 accessible to all. Further, Section 19 (1) of the same Article provides that the State
11 shall promote physical education, sports programs and competitions alongside
12 training for international competitions to foster self-discipline, teamwork and
13 excellence for the attainment of a healthy and alert citizenry. Thus, the State shall
14 recognize and uphold the rights of Student-Athletes to further hone their skills and
15 abilities in their respective fields of amateur sports without neglecting their education
16 and general well-being.
17

18 It is the intention of this law to protect and promote the rights of the Student-
19 Athlete, who is, first and foremost, a student. To this end, the rights guaranteed by
20 this law and the obligations imposed on schools, athletic associations and their
21 officials and representatives shall seek to ensure that the Student-Athlete attains
22 quality education while honing his skill and reaching his full potential as an athlete in
23 an amateur sports setting. Ultimately, this law aims to enable the Student-Athlete to
24 enjoy a balanced life while in school and at play.
25

26 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be
27 defined as follows:
28

1 **4.1. "Athletic Association"** refers to any organization that is
2 responsible for governing inter-school athletic programs and
3 competitions such as, but not limited to, the Private Schools Athletic
4 Association (PRISAA), University Athletic Association of the Philippines
5 (UAAP), National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Women's
6 National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA), State Colleges and
7 Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA), Cebu Schools Athletic
8 Foundation Inc. (CESAFI), and National Capital Region Athletic
9 Association (NCRAA), among others but shall not include National
10 Sports Associations (NSAs).

11
12 **4.2. "National Sports Associations (NSAs)"** refer to associations
13 organized for their respective sports in the Philippines and/or affiliated
14 with their respective international federations which are recognized by
15 the International Olympic Committee or the Philippine Sports
16 Commission, including associations formed to represent the interest of
17 athletes in a particular sport.

18
19 **4.3. "School"** refers to an institution recognized by the State which
20 undertakes educational operations such as grade school, high school,
21 college, university, or technical-vocational education and training
22 institution.

23
24 **4.4. "Student-Athlete"** refers to a student currently enrolled in any
25 school who is part of any of the school's athletic teams or programs
26 and who represents or has an intention of representing the school in an
27 inter-school athletic program or competition; *Provided*, That a student
28 shall still be considered a Student-Athlete for purposes of certain
29 provisions of this Act if there is a valid reason for his non-enrollment,
30 such as a long term illness, severe incapacity, or personal reasons that
31 are a serious hindrance to enrolling that term; *Provided further*, That for
32 purposes of being eligible to represent his school in an inter-school
33 athletic program or competition, the Student-Athlete shall be enrolled in
34 at least a minimum full-time program of studies and be in good
35 academic standing.

36
37 **SEC. 5. Rights of Student-Athletes.** - Student-Athletes shall have the right to:

38
39 **5.1 Education**

40
41 **(a)** It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have his educational
42 needs prioritized by the participating school or athletic
43 association. To this extent, the school administration will strive
44 to provide tutorials or extra academic support to assist the
45 Student-Athlete in maintaining good scholastic standing.
46

1 (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have her academic
2 performance monitored by the participating school to ascertain
3 how his involvement in athletic programs and competitions
4 affects her class performance.
5

6 (c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be allowed by the
7 participating school to be excused from class, which will not be
8 charged against his allowable absences, due to sports-related
9 activities and circumstances attested as true by the concerned
10 coach or sports official; *Provided*, That he makes up for the
11 missed classes/activities/tests.
12

13 (d) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to continue availing of
14 her full or partial scholarship for his continued education and/or
15 financial support even after suffering from injury that resulted
16 from his participation in the athletic program which prevents her
17 from further training for and competing in inter-school
18 competitions.
19

20 (e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to complete his academic
21 requirements on time. In no case shall a Student-Athlete in
22 junior or senior high school be allowed to repeat a year level and
23 play at the same time.
24

25 5.2 Health and Safety

26
27 (a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to train and compete in
28 safe and healthy environments as provided by the school during
29 practice and training sessions or by the athletic association
30 during inter-school athletic programs and competitions.
31

32 (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be provided by the
33 school or athletic association with safe, well-maintained and
34 upgraded equipment, and well-fitted uniforms.
35

36 (c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have access to health
37 care professionals who will monitor his physical health condition
38 and nutritional needs, particularly during training and
39 competitions and right after the competitions, as provided by the
40 school, and to medics in emergency situations during athletic
41 programs or competitions, as provided by the athletic
42 association.
43

44 (d) It is the right of current and former Student-Athletes to
45 receive free or subsidized medical expense coverage from the
46 participating schools or athletic associations he is representing
47 in case of any physical injury or sports-related harm suffered by

