

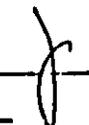
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 FEB -2 P6 21

SENATE
S. No. 3215

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
INCREASING AWARENESS ABOUT SPORTS-RELATED
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

While sports-related injuries do not always cause death, the leading cause of death from these injuries is traumatic brain injury. A traumatic brain injury (TBI) may be defined as a blow or jolt to the head, or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal functions of the brain. TBI may result when the head violently and suddenly hits an object, or when something pierces the skull and enters brain tissue. Symptoms of TBI can be mild, moderate, or severe, depending on the extent of the brain damage. Mild cases may result in a brief change in a person's mental state or consciousness, while severe cases may lead to extended periods of unconsciousness, coma, or even death.

Boxing is an example of a very popular local sport where the participants are at risk of suffering from brain damage. Professional and amateur boxers can suffer permanent brain damage over time. The strength of a professional boxer's fist approximates the force of being hit with a 13-pound bowling ball traveling at 20 miles per hour, or about 52 times as strong as gravity.

Based on a study by the Journal of Combative Sport, from the period January of 1960 to August of 2011, 488 boxing-related deaths have been recorded. The study attributes 66 percent of these deaths to head, brain, or neck injuries, while one was attributed to a skull fracture. While some boxers are just slightly affected, there are those

that are so severely affected that they require institutional care. Some boxers exhibit varying degrees of speech difficulty, stiffness, unsteadiness, memory loss, and inappropriate behavior. In some studies, 15 to 40 percent of former boxers have shown symptoms of chronic brain injury. A majority of these boxers have mild symptoms. Recent studies have shown that most professional boxers (even those without symptoms) have some degree of brain damage.

This bill aims to educate the public, especially student and amateur athletes, about the dangers of sports-related brain injuries.¹


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

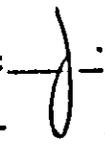
¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fifteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.



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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Traumatic Brain
2 Injury Prevention and Information Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies and Objectives.* – Pursuant to the
4 Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, the State shall give priority to education, science and
5 technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social
6 progress, and promote total human liberation and development. This Act is aimed at
7 improving awareness, prevention, and treatment of sports-related concussions and brain
8 injuries through the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the
9 Department of Health, and the Philippine Sports Commission.

10 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the term:

11 (A) “Athlete” is any student who participates in an athletic program of an
12 educational institution or an amateur athlete as defined by law; and

13 (B) “Traumatic Brain Injury” is a blow or jolt to the head, or a penetrating head
14 injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain.

1 **SECTION 4. *Requirement for Prevention and Treatment Programs in Organized***
2 ***Sports.*** – All educational institutions and amateur sports programs shall have a program
3 for the prevention and treatment of sports-related concussions and brain injuries.

4 **SECTION 5. *Program to Address Sports-Related Traumatic Brain Injuries.*** – The
5 Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the Department of
6 Health, and the Philippine Sports Commission shall create a program addressing the
7 improvement of awareness, prevention, and treatment of sports-related concussions and
8 brain injuries within two years from the effectivity of this Act.

9 **SECTION 6. *Programs in Educational Institutions.*** – The first part of the program
10 shall be the education of parents and student athletes about the prevention, symptoms,
11 and dangers of sports-related brain injuries. This shall be accomplished by a brain injury
12 fact sheet that will be provided yearly to parents, students, coaches, and athletic trainers.
13 The fact sheet shall also include recommended time periods to keep students who have
14 experienced a brain injury out of further athletic competition. Educational institutions
15 shall formulate their own written policies and procedures about how to prevent and treat
16 these injuries when a student is suspected of having a concussion or other brain injury.

17 **SECTION 7. *Requirement for Student and Amateur Athletes.*** – Any student or
18 amateur athlete who sustains or is suspected of sustaining a brain injury shall be
19 immediately removed from competition or practice and not allowed to return until
20 medical clearance is obtained. The student or amateur athlete must be cleared by a doctor
21 trained in the evaluation and management of concussions who must state, in writing, that
22 the athlete is cleared to resume physical activity.

23 **SECTION 8. *General Guidelines for All Sports.*** – The following guidelines shall
24 be observed for all sports activities:

1 (A) Supervise younger children at all times, and do not let them use sporting
2 equipment or play sports unsuitable for their age;

3 (B) Do not dive in water less than 12 feet deep or in above-ground pools;

4 (C) Follow all rules at water parks and swimming pools;

5 (D) Wear appropriate clothing for the sport;

6 (E) Do not wear any clothing that can interfere with your vision;

7 (F) Do not participate in sports when you are ill or very tired;

8 (G) Obey all traffic signals, and be aware of drivers when cycling, skateboarding
9 or rollerblading;

10 (H) Avoid uneven or unpaved surfaces when cycling, skateboarding or
11 rollerblading;

12 (I) Perform regular safety checks of sports fields, playgrounds and equipment; and

13 (J) Discard and replace sporting equipment or protective gear that is damaged.

14 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
16 provisions hereof.

17 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
18 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
19 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

20 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
21 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
22 circulation.

Approved,