

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

*13<sup>th</sup> Congress*  
First Regular Session

**375**  
**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

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Introduced by Representative Roseller L. Barinaga

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Unemployment has long been a trademark of our economy. It means that potentially productive workers are not being utilized, preventing the economy from producing as much as it might. Such a situation is what breeds the persistent poverty we are experiencing today.

Due to this difficult economic situation, an increasing number of young people are not able to pursue higher education. In a vicious cycle, they then join the ranks of millions of Filipinos who are presently unemployed.

Unemployment is most felt in the countryside. Although most young people of working age are eager to work for their daily subsistence, there is a lack of programs and facilities that could equip them with the right training and skills for employment.

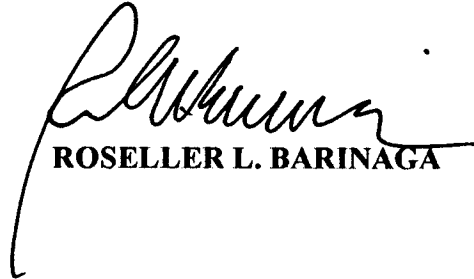
As opportunities for employment continue to dwindle, it is anticipated that this predicament will continue and remain an urgent concern in the coming years. In order to promote full employment and give optimum opportunity to all, there is a need to adopt measures to ensure that Filipinos are made competitive in terms of labor and the goods that they produce locally.

To this end, this bill seeks to bring education to the grassroots level and promote employment opportunities by creating training, livelihood, and employment centers in cities and selected municipalities nationwide. The said centers will act as venues for skills development, job assistance and placement, employment generation, and acquisition of technology and market information.

In facing the challenges of this "technological era," the quality of a country's labor force and the size of its technical manpower stock are essential. These are skills that

cannot be amply provided by the educational system. Thus, with the creation of the training, livelihood, and employment centers, it is envisioned that a productive and competitive manpower that has the training and skills needed to lead us towards sustainable economic growth and industrialization can be developed.

It is to this end that passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ROSELLER L. BARINAGA

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF TRAINING, LIVELIHOOD, AND**  
**EMPLOYMENT CENTERS IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES NATIONWIDE,**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to promote full employment and to give optimum opportunity to all. It is also the mandate of the State to adopt measures to ensure that Filipinos are made competitive in terms of labor and the goods they produce locally. Towards this end, the State shall institute programs and install appropriate mechanisms to encourage livelihood and entrepreneurial development and promote full employment to all qualified citizens.

**SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.*** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) *Center* refers to a physical structure or a mechanism, or both, which shall serve as a venue for training, livelihood, and employment activities and assistance;
- b) *Training* refers to any activity that imparts skills and knowledge, with the objective of preparing individuals for future employment or business undertaking;
- c) *Livelihood* refers to a backyard, cottage industry, or micro-enterprise that will generate self-employment and business opportunities; and
- d) *Employment* refers to assistance in terms of job opportunities, hiring, and job placement services.

**SEC. 3. *Creation/Strengthening of Training, Livelihood, and Employment Centers.*** - There shall be created in cities and selected municipalities training, livelihood,

and employment centers, hereinafter referred to as "centers," as venues for skills development, job assistance and placement, employment generation, and acquisition of technology and market information: *Provided*, That those with existing training, livelihood, and/or employment centers shall only be entitled to upgrading, strengthening, and/or consolidation, whichever is feasible: *Provided further*, That at least one center shall be established in every congressional district.

**SEC. 4. *Programs and Services of the Center.*** - The training, livelihood and employment center shall provide the following services to the public:

- a) Integrated skills training, livelihood and employment services offered by various government agencies, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the academe;
- b) Skills and business management training programs to prepare local residents for employment and/or entrepreneurship;
- c) Technical assistance in all aspects of livelihood and enterprise development such as production, marketing, finance, organization and management;
- d) Placement services for all types of labor, whether in the public or the private sector, domestic or foreign; and
- e) Information dissemination of employment opportunities and labor requirement trends, local or abroad.

**SEC. 5. *Administration of the Center.*** - The center shall be financed, managed and sustained by the respective city or municipal government in coordination with the congressional district office..

**SEC. 6. *National Coordinating Body.*** - To provide planning and policy direction at the national level, there is hereby created a Training and Employment Planning and Coordinating Committee (TEPCC) to be chaired by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The members of the committee are: Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Finance (DOF), Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and industry or trade associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in training, livelihood, and/or employment placement, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

The amount of Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial year of operation of the Training and Employment Planning and Coordinating

Committee (TEPCC). Thereafter, the sum necessary for the continued operation of the TEPCC shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 7. *Functions of the TEPCC.*** - The TEPCC shall be responsible for the following:

- a) Conduct of a national area-based mapping of training, livelihood and/or employment centers to determine which areas need priority establishments and which existing centers need strengthening, upgrading, or consolidating, based on needs analysis;
- b) Formulation of policy guidelines for the creation, upgrading or strengthening of the centers;
- c) Development of integrated programs to support the operations and services of the centers; and
- d) Monitoring and evaluation.

**SEC. 8. *Training and Employment Center Fund.*** - There is, hereby, created a Training and Employment Center Fund (TEC Fund) amounting to Four Hundred Million Pesos (P400,000,000.00), which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act and which shall be made available to local government units (LGUs) for the creation, upgrading or strengthening of the centers; *Provided*, That a grant package to be availed of by the city or municipality shall not exceed One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00). The fund, which shall be in a form of grant, shall be administered by the Department of Finance through the Municipal Development Fund. A corresponding local government (LGU) counterpart shall be required in order to avail of the grant package.

**SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Department of Labor and Employment, in coordination with the other government agencies and private organizations represented in the TEPCC, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.***- If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

**SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official *Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.