

Republic of the Philippines
House of the Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3646

Introduced by **HONORABLE IGNACIO T. ARROYO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the most pressing concerns of the people in the province of Negros Occidental is the source of livelihood and employment. Without the assurance of livelihood, the barest potential of the people will not be realized. Unemployment and underemployment can be the root cause of the social ills. On the other hand, it has been observed that employment can be made available if human resources are tapped through the improvement of skills and know how. Those who are already skilled sometimes are not afforded the opportunity because of lack of information dissemination.

This bill seeks to remedy this employment problem by establishing a program in the municipalities of the Fifth District of Negros Occidental that will be affordable and free from the nefarious activities of illegal recruiters and exploiters. This will not only benefit the employment seekers but the employers as well since this will facilitate the recruitment of able and qualified individuals. The program will also expand the pool of qualified workers through its livelihood learning activities. Eventually, the program seeks to increase the competitiveness of labor through skill development. A notable aspect of this Program is how it seeks to expand to employment assistance to the public sector.

In view of laudable objectives and practically, support for the passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


IGNACIO T. ARROYO
Representative
5th District Negros Occidental

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A “JOB ASSISTANCE AND LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM” IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 Filipino are more competitive in terms of labor and the goods that they produce locally. Towards this end, the State shall institute programs to encourage livelihood development and promote full employment for those qualified.

Section 2. Job Assistance and Livelihood Program - There is hereby established the “Jobs Assistance and Livelihood Program” in the Municipalities of the Fifth District of Negros Occidental which will allow qualified and capable workers, whether skilled or unskilled, clerical or supervisory, who are seeking employment to offer their services to private or governmental entities, including those that are yet to operate, whether for employment locally or abroad. Employees or potential employees may likewise seek, assess or review the papers of possible employees through this program. It shall likewise provide educational, training and learning sessions aimed at providing livelihood opportunities and skills development for the residents of said municipalities.

Section 3. Job Assistance and Livelihood Centers - There shall be established in the municipalities of the Fifth District of Negros Occidental the “Job Assistance and Livelihood Centers” that shall carry out the program.

Section 4. Program Council - A program Council, hereafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created to implement, supervise, and monitor the Program. The Council shall be chaired, in an ex officio capacity, by the Director for Region 6 of the Department of Labor and Employment. The members of the council will come from the regional representatives or their duly designated representatives, in ex-officio capacities, from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the regional director of the Civil Service Commission (CSD), the Congressional Representative of the legislative district concerned, as well as a representative from the Regional Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as members to be appointed by the Secretary of Labor and Employment.

Section 5. General Duties and Powers of the Council - In furtherance of the Program, it shall be the duty of the Council:

- a) To provide placement services for labor of all types, whether in the public or private sector;
- b) To engage in activities that will promote livelihood training and education;
- c) To collect and analyze, in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Employment, and other appropriate public and private agencies, the fullest available information on the employment situations and its probable trends, and to make disseminate such information systematically available to other public agencies, employers, workers, and the public;
- d) To encourage and assist as necessary other public agencies and private organizations in social and economic planning calculated to ensure a favorable employment situation.
- e) To cooperate in the administration of such employment insurance or assistance schemes and such other measures as may be established for the relief of the unemployed;
- f) To make continuous and special studies on the various aspects of the organization of the employment market and recommend measures to prevent or eradicate unemployment or underemployment;
- g) To assist the transfer of workers or settlers from one place to another;
- h) To prepare an annual report of its activities, with emphasis on the number of applicants who had obtained employment through the program in relation to the number of applicants that had registered with the Program; and
- i) To perform such other duties and functions which are appropriate and in consonance with the objectives of the Program.

Section 6. Employment Counselling and Testing - The Program shall established an Employment Counseling ang Testing Service for the purpose of giving assistance to any person in the pursuit of his or her vocational skill.

Section 7. Memorandum of Agreements - The Council may enter into such Memorandum of Agreements with other government agencies and private corporations and entities to render assistance and extend other forms of cooperation, as may be needed.

Section 8. Program Incentives - The Secretary of Labor and Employment shall be authorized to formulate and implement an Incentive Program, such as the reduction in registration fees, and the exemption from procedural requirements for employers, private enterprises, and other non-governmental organizations who will participate in the Program.

Section 9. Charges and Fees - No Charge or fee shall be collected unless it was unanimously approved by all members of the Council. In connection with the fees and charges that may be mposed, due consideration must be given to its primary objective of giving assistance to the less privileged people in society. All fees or charges collected shall be remitted to the National Treasury through the Department of Labor and Employment. The Program, however, may retain Fifty Centum (50%) of such amount to be spent for its Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses as well as for Capital Outlay.

Section 10. Neutrality and Non-Discrimination - The Program shall strictly observe neutrality in case of labor or industrial dispute, and shall not discriminate on account of race, color, sex, political, orientation and beliefs.

Section 11. Appropriations - The sum of Ten Million Pesos (PHP10,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the first year of operation of the Program. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued operation shall be incleded in the General Appropriations Act of the Department of Labor and Employment.