

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1855

INTRODUCED BY HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) play a crucial role in the development of the national economy. They help a lot in the employment generation, wealth creation and technological advancement and entrepreneurship development.

Therefore, it is important for the State to establish the institutional framework to make the economic environment conducive to business by raising government efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services to the SMEs throughout the country, and to provide the necessary and strategic information and research assistance to expedite the process of business formation and encourage the growth of entrepreneurship.

This bill seeks to establish coordinating, monitoring and assistance Centers (BOSS) for the SMEs.

In this regard, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING BUSINESS ONE-STOP SHOP (BOSS) CENTERS FOR
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN ALL REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL
CENTERS IN THE COUNTRY

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

SECTION 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the "Business One-Stop shop (BOSS) Center act of 2010".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – The State recognizes the crucial role of small and medium enterprises in employment generation, wealth creation and technological advancement and entrepreneurship development in the country. Pursuant thereto, the State shall establish the institutional framework to make the economic environment conducive to business by raising government efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) throughout the country. In addition, it shall provide the necessary and strategic information and research assistance to expedite the process of business formation and encourage the growth of entrepreneurship.

In the task of supporting small and medium enterprises, the State recognizes the pivotal role of the private sector by making them a partner in entrepreneurial development.

- (a) To act as the coordinating body for the participating agencies in the BOSS Center;
- (b) To formulate the criteria for selection and prioritization of the establishment of each BOSS Center, taking into consideration existing business and similar centers in the area;
- (c) To prepare quarterly status reports of major issues that shall be made available to all interested parties;
- (d) To promulgate such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act;
- (e) To prepare pre-feasibility studies of existing as well as possible industries in the Philippines that can help entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs to decide on what business to venture into;

(f) To monitor and collate economic, technical, and industry research output of all government agencies that has reference to business enterprises, as well as to investors in the country; and

(g) Generally, to exercise all powers and functions necessary to achieve the objectives and purpose by this Act.

SEC.6 Functions of the BOSS Centers. – Each BOSS Center shall function as a one-stop center offering the following services:

(a) Accept and act on all registration applications of SMEs;

(b) Provide all information and referral service it shall deem useful, necessary, or essential to small and medium entrepreneurs and prospective entrepreneurs;

(c) Established a databank which shall be the source of all information necessary for project monitoring, research and policy studies and information dissemination campaigns;

(d) Act as a coordinating center for activities and programs for SMEs;

(e) Provide local and international networks and linkages for SME development;

(f) Supply information and service in training, financing, marketing and technology transfer to SMEs; and

(g) Conduct other programs or projects for entrepreneurial development in the country.

SEC. 7. Composition of each BOSS Center. – The following government agencies are mandated to detail representatives of appropriate rank, sufficient authority and capacity to give information assistance as well as having discretion to act on pertinent applications at each BOSS Center:

(a) Local Government Unit (LGU) in areas concerned;

(b) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

(c) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);

(d) Bureau of Internal revenue (BIR)

(e) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);

(f) Social Security System (SSS); and

(g) Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA)

When necessary, the SMED Council may require the detail of appropriate personnel of other government agencies that may support the purpose and objectives of this Act. Government personnel assigned or detailed at each BOSS Center shall receive reasonable honoraria, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 8 BOSS Secretariat. – A Secretariat shall be organized by the corporate entity organized to manage each BOSS Center. The Secretariat shall have the following duties and functions:

- (a) To facilitate and administer the day-to-day operations of the BOSS Center;
- (b) To act as information desk on matters relevant to the interest of SMEs;
- (c) To act as coordinator for activities of the BOSS centers;
- (d) To render a yearly report and accounting of funds to the SMED Council; and
- (e) To perform other duties and functions assigned to it by the SMED Council.

SEC. 9 Issuance of Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the SMED Council, in Consultation with appropriate agencies, including representatives from the House of Representatives, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provision of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC.10. Pilot Project. – To test the feasibility of its corporate structure, institutional linkages and arrangements, as well as funding needs and requirements, the SMED Council is authorized to initiate a pilot BOSS Center project in partnership with sector groups, industries or associations, or other government agencies or offices.

SEC. II. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC.12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,