

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **5539**



Introduced by **HONORABLE JUAN JOHNNY R. REVILLA**

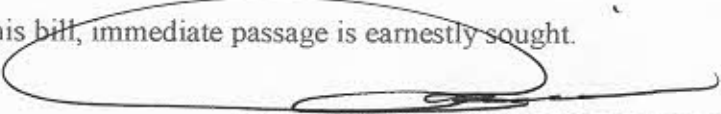
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill proposes to establish a Global Identification System that would identify overseas workers as legitimate Overseas Filipino Workers.

There is currently an estimated 10 million Overseas Filipino Workers across many countries in the world. These OFWs have contributed immensely to the economic and financial development of our country through their foreign remittances that saved the Philippines from financial crisis in previous years. They are now regarded as present-day heroes for their great sacrifice of being separated from their families to be able to earn decent income to provide their loved-ones and also support our economy.

In recognition therefore of the valuable contributions of our OFWs in sustaining our country's financial stability, they should be protected from unnecessary abuse and exploitation for the duration of their employment overseas. This bill then obligates the issuance of an OFW Card that will serve as the primary and only identification card for all Overseas Filipino Workers as well as the linkage to various government agencies where the OFW can access their services.

Considering the importance of this bill, immediate passage is earnestly sought.

  
**HON. JUAN JOHNNY R. REVILLA**  
*OFW Family Party List*

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFW) GLOBAL IDENTIFICATION**  
**SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY LEGITIMATE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS.**

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

**SECTION 1.** The Philippine Government, through the participation of several government agencies shall institute an Identification System covering all Overseas Filipino Workers employed abroad. The OFW ID System shall produce an OFW Card which will serve as the primary and only identification card for all Overseas Filipino Workers.

**SEC. 2.** The OFW Card shall contain the following:

- a. Workers Name
- b. Date of Birth
- c. Workers latest Photo
- d. OFW Card Number
- e. Validity Dates of OFW Card
- f. Philippine Passport Number and Expiration Date
- g. Worker's Type of Work Visa
- h. Validity Date and Expiration Date of Work Visa
- i. Country of Employment
- j. Employer's Name.

**SEC. 3.** The machine readable OFW Card shall be issued in the Philippines through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) for all new OFWs prior to departure to country of employment. Currently employed OFWs shall be issued the Card by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in the country of employment.

**SEC. 4.** The OFW Card will also contain electronically the following information:

- a. Social Security Number,
- b. PAG-IBIG member number and
- c. PhilHealth membership number.

**SEC. 5.** The POEA shall work closely with the following government agencies deemed significant partners in implementing the OFW Card:

- a. Department of Labor and Employment through its Philippine Overseas Labor Offices
- b. Department of Foreign Affairs through its Migrant Affairs Office
- c. Philippine Statistics Authority

- d. Social Security System
- e. PAG-IBIG Fund
- f. PhilHealth

**SEC. 6.** The OFW card shall be linked with the Social Security System and will provide access to the member OFWs contribution summary. Similarly, the OFW Card will be linked with the PAG-IBIG Fund's system so that the member OFW may be able to access his/her contribution summary through the agency's website. The OFW Card will likewise be linked to the PhilHealth's system allowing the member OFW to view his/her premium payments.

The OFW shall continue to make payments to the authorized collection centers of the Social Security System, PAG-IBIG and PhilHealth.

**SEC. 7.** The Department of Foreign Affairs through its Embassies and Consular Offices across the world shall coordinate and communicate with the Employment Country's Immigration Department, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Home Affairs, Police Agencies or their equivalent government offices, to recognize the OFW Card as an official and valid Identification Card of the Overseas Worker during the period of employment.

**SEC. 8.** The OFW Card shall likewise allow the Worker to prepay the Overseas Employment Certificate requirements for the term of employment.

**SEC. 9.** The lead agency in the implementation of this Act shall be the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). It shall determine, define and disseminate information regarding the requirements of this Act. The POEA shall also be responsible for the monitoring compliance with this Act.

**SEC. 10.** The POEA shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act not later than three (3) months from the effectivity of this law.

**SEC. 11.** This Act Shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,