

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6006

Introduced by Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

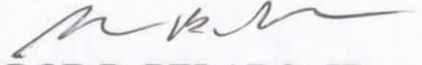
As of 2017, our overseas Filipino compatriots now reach an all-time high number of 2.2 million.¹ Their steady remittances constitute one of the reason why the Philippines now matter as an emerging economy in Asia and for this reason, our overseas Filipino workers indeed merit the title the heroes of economy.

There is the ample wisdom in granting them more participation in the affairs of our country, which is one of the reason for the passage of the Dual Citizen Act (R.A. No. 9225).

With more and more of our overseas Filipinos abroad being dual citizen, there is a need to assist them exercise their right of suffrage.

This Act, which seeks to institute an online voting mechanism for our overseas Filipino compatriots, is imbued with the same objective, especially in consideration of the fact that in many countries where our Filipino compatriots are residing overseas, most of their daily activities are conducted online, and the sheer distance of most consulates for a greater number of our overseas Filipinos.

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority, 2017. psa.gov.ph. Retrieved July 17, 2017.



SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.

Representative

I-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING AN ONLINE VOTING SYSTEM
FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Online Voting Act of 2017".

SECTION 2. The Constitution provides that the right to suffrage may be exercised by all the citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law.

SECTION 3. The right of suffrage shall be extended and made available to our overseas Filipino workers through an online voting system.

SECTION 4. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) is tasked herein to formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulation.

SECTION 5. The fund necessary for the implementation of this act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act upon the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 6. If any provision hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect within thirty (30) days upon its approval.

Approved.