

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7228



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Images of the homecoming remains of OFW Joanna Demafelis jolt us to sad realities. Our workers away from home are at the mercy of multifarious dangers and perils engendered by nature and fellowman alike. As if their solitude and remoteness are not enough torment themselves, their maltreatment is way unacceptable. Their noble aim of providing for their loved ones makes them endure every suffering and trouble that come their way. Their contribution to keep the national economy afloat is not a small thing. As Senate President Pro Tempore pointed out, "If you add up remittances of OFWs in Kuwait over the past three years, the total would be about P112.7 billion," using current peso-US dollar exchange.

However, in the event the OFWs themselves lose the ability to earn a living, their family and those who depend on them for subsistence become miserable. There has to be a state intervention whereby they are protected economically if this scenario occurs.

Hence, the government would do well to set up a special pension fund for the protection of the dependents of OFWs who lose their income via death or disability.

The immediate passage of this timely measure is most earnestly sought.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Winnie Castelo". The signature is written over the printed name "WINNIE CASTELO" and extends upwards and to the left, looping around the text.

WINNIE CASTELO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF OFW DEPENDENTS BY SETTING UP FOR THEM
A SPECIAL PENSION FUND IN THE EVENT OF INCOME LOSS DUE TO DEATH OR
DISABILITY

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "OFW Dependents' Special Pension Fund Act."

SEC 2. There shall hereby be established a special pension fund for every Overseas Filipino Worker made available for their dependents in the event of their income loss due to their death or disability.

SEC. 3. To fully implement the provisions of this Act, the proper government agency shall issue rules, regulations, guidelines necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,