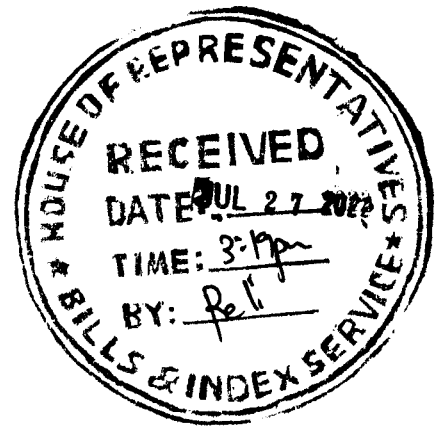


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2527**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARISSA “DEL MAR” P. MAGSINO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE INSURANCES FOR COVERED APPLICANTS OF
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We have over two (2) million modern day heroes whose tears water the fertile grounds of their dreams and whose sacrifices nurture our economy. Overseas Filipino Workers make up a sector in society who serve as big contributors in boosting our economy and in lining our coffers.

However, not all of them are documented. According to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), of the aforementioned number, around one (1) million are unaccounted for. When they leave undocumented, the government could not monitor them.

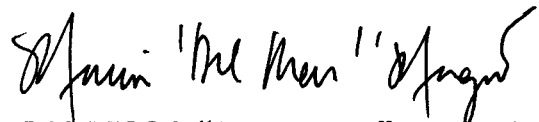
What better way to encourage Filipinos to register with OWWA than to incentivize all those who respect the rules and follow the procedures. We must let them know the importance of having themselves documented, not only for government monitoring, but due to the benefits they will or will not receive depending on whether they correctly follow the procedures.

The first step to solving a problem is to admit that there is a problem. Truly, the issue of undocumented OFWs have resulted in various abuses because the fact that they are unaccounted for by the government exposes them to threats of being taken advantage of. Many of them fall prey to abusive employers – some more unfortunate ones pay the

ultimate price of death at the hands of employers who utilize their lack of proper documentation in perpetrating violence against them.

This proposed measure now seeks to ensure that many more OFWs will comply with the rules and follow the procedures by giving free insurance coverage to covered OFWs that apply for an Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC). A salient feature of the bill is the grant of free one (1) year insurance with the same or similar coverage under Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, otherwise known as the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act”. By incentivizing the application for OEC, OFWs would now think twice before refusing to go through the correct procedure in securing their employment overseas. It would be a win-win situation for OFWs and the government alike – both gaining from a simple legislation

Foregoing disquisitions considered, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marissa "Del Mar" P. Magsino', is positioned above the printed name.

MARISSA “DEL MAR” P. MAGSINO

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

1 Section 1. *Declaration of Policies.*— The State shall afford full protection to labor,
2 local and overseas, organized, and unorganized. Towards this end, the State shall provide
3 adequate and timely social, legal, and economic services to overseas Filipinos workers.
4 Pursuant to this, the State shall ensure that all overseas Filipino workers are properly
5 monitored and accounted for with due regard for their protection and welfare, and that
6 overseas Filipino workers are incentivized to make themselves known to Philippine
7 authorities abroad.

8 Sec. 2. *Coverage.*— The benefits under this Act shall apply to applicants of overseas
9 employment certificates (OECs); *Provided*, That the applicant-migrant worker is abroad;
10 *Provided further*, That he/she has no prior record with the Philippine Overseas
11 Employment Authority (POEA), or if he/she has a prior record, is working in a vulnerable
12 sector, as may be determined by the POEA, in consultation with relevant government
13 agencies and other stakeholders.

14 Sec. 3. *Benefits.*— Covered migrant workers shall, upon securing an overseas
15 employment certificate from the POEA or the Philippine Embassy or consular offices
16 abroad shall be given a free one-year insurance with the same or similar coverage as

1 required under Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, otherwise known as the “Migrant
2 Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act.”

3 SEC. 4. *Funding.* - The payment for the premium of the insurance provided under
4 this Act shall be funded partly by the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
5 earmarked for the Assistance to Nationals and partly by the appropriations in the General
6 Appropriations Act as included in the budget of the POEA. For the first year of the
7 implementation of this Act, an initial amount of Thirty Million Pesos (P30,000.000.00)
8 is hereby appropriated. Thereafter, such amount necessary for its continued
9 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

10 SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Labor and
11 Employment (DOLE), DFA, POEA, OWWA, Insurance Commission and other relevant
12 stakeholders shall issue the implementing rule and regulations of this Act within sixty
13 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

14 To ensure the proper implementation of this Act, DOLE, POEA and DFA shall
15 establish a system that shall facilitate the processing and issuance of OECs abroad.

16 SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act is held
17 unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provision hereof which are not affected
18 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

19 SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules
20 and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with any provisions of this Act
21 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

22 SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
23 in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,