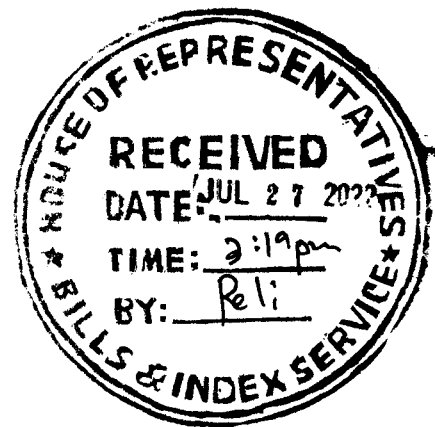


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2529**



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARISSA “DEL MAR” P. MAGSINO**

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**AN ACT**  
**EXEMPTING QUALIFIED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) FROM THE**  
**COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10912, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016**

Our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) have endured leaving their family and loved ones for the promise of a better life. They have made the heroic choice of saying their goodbyes to secure a future that their families can hold on to.

In their quest to gain better opportunities and better pay abroad, they spend most of their days in a year serving their employment contracts. This is the reality of their situation. As they fulfill their employment obligations, they are enriching themselves with necessary experiences and learnings – albeit in countries foreign to their own.

No one could contest that as they practice their professions abroad, they are not improving their competence. It's only a different setting, but the work they do remains the same. They cannot be questioned whether they are continuously enhancing their capabilities and capacities.

With the passage of Republic Act No. 10912, otherwise known as the “Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016”, our dear OFWs have been subjected to redundant requirements which add to their burdens. Under the said law, OFWs, whose employment setup make it impossible for them to comply with the requirements of the law, are unreasonably expected to fulfill them, have repeatedly asked to be exempted from the law. In 2019, the Professional Regulation Commission issued Resolution No. 2019-1146 which exempted OFWs from the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirement

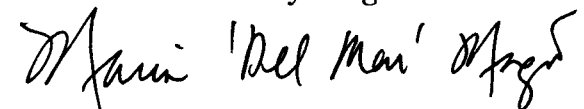
during the transition period within which the PRC and stakeholders are expected to be enabled to complete the antecedent requirements for the efficient implementation of the provisions of the CPD Act of 2016.

This humble representation, however, opines that the said exemption during the transition period is not sufficient. OFWs continue to equip themselves with competencies and abilities as they practice their respective professions abroad. They should not be unreasonably burdened by requirements which serve only to unduly distress them, instead of truly serving the purpose for which they have been written.

It is now in the hands of legislators like this representation to recalibrate the laws to make them dynamic and responsive to the realities on the ground. We cannot allow additional burdens to OFWs who are already working so hard miles away from home, while contributing to the growth of the country's economy. We must admit that their remittances have allowed the government to continue to provide relevant programs. Therefore, we cannot turn a blind eye to the realities that besiege them – especially those which we can actually offer our help to.

This proposed measure seeks to exempt Qualified OFWs from the CPD requirements. This is the most apt response to the clamor for exemption. OFWs have already explained their case which merit our swift action.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is most earnestly sought.

  
**MARISSA "DEL MAR" P. MAGSINO**

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**CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016**

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

1           Section 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10912 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2                   “Sec.3. Definition of Terms. – The following terms shall be defined under  
3           this Act:

4                   “xxx.

5                   **(X) QUALIFIED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**  
6                   **(OFWS) REFERS TO FILIPINO PROFESSIONAL WHO**  
7                   **ARE ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR**  
8                   **PROFESION OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES WITH A**  
9                   **SERVICE CONTRACT OF A LEAST THREE (3) YEARS OR**  
10                  **HAS BEEN PRACTICING THEIR PROFESSION OUTSIDE**  
11                  **OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3)**  
12                  **CONSECUTIVE YEARS.”**

13           Sec. 2. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 10912 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1           *Sec. 10. CPD as Mandatory Requirement in the Renewal of*  
2           *Professional License and Accreditation System for the Practice of*  
3           *Professions.* – The CPD Is hereby made as a mandatory  
4           requirement in the renewal of the PICs of all registered and licensed  
5           professionals under the regulation of the PRC, **EXCEPT WITH**  
6           **REGARD TO QUALIFIED OVERSEAS FILIPINO**  
7           **WORKERS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2, PARAGRAPH (X)**  
8           **OF THIS ACT.**

9           **A PROFESSIONAL WHO IS PRACTICING OR WHO**  
10          **INTENDS TO PRACTICE HIS/HER PROFESSION IN**  
11          **COUNTRIES COVERED BY BILATERAL, REGIONAL OR**  
12          **INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN WHICH CPD IS A**  
13          **RECOGNITION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT,**  
14          **SUCH AS THE ASEAN MUTUAL RECOGNITION**  
15          **AGREEMENTS (MRAs), SHALL COMPLY WITH THE**  
16          **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT.**

17          *Sec. 3. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or  
18          part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
19          modified accordingly.

20          *Sec. 4. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after  
21          its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
22          circulation, whichever comes earlier.

*Approved,*