

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4996



Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are hailed as the country's new-age heroes, contributing significantly to our overall economic growth through their remittances and their unparalleled efforts.

Numerous stories of the challenges they face are not unheard of. But what is perhaps lesser known is their struggle to develop new skills and pursue further studies in order to maintain a competitive advantage in international labor markets.

This bill, which had been filed by Rep. Salvador Belaro during the 17th Congress, seeks to provide continuing education, whether in the nature of college, graduate studies, or technical training, to our OFWs through the use of our embassies and consulates abroad. Likewise, this bill seeks to provide the same for their dependents living with them abroad.


GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.
3rd District, CAMARINES SUR

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4996

Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

**AN ACT PROVIDING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND THEIR
DEPENDENTS ABROAD ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND SKILLS
TRAININGS**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "OFW Higher Education and Skills Training Act of 2022"

SEC. 2. All Philippine embassies and consulates abroad are hereby mandated to work with Philippine-based academic degree- granting institutions, preferably with online class offerings, duly recognized by the Commission of Higher Education (CHED); and/or technical education institutions (TVIs) duly recognized by the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) to make available courses and/or program offerings, whether degree or short courses, which can be made available to OFWs and/or their dependents abroad, within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

SEC. 3. For such purpose, our existing embassies and consulates abroad shall be used as venues for the provision of higher education programs, whether for college or graduate studies, or skills training. Also, the existing personnel of said embassies and consulates may also be tapped as instructor for the said programs.

SEC. 4. Participating schools who send their faculty members from the Philippines to teach in the said embassies and consulates shall receive a reasonable subsidy from the government for said teachers' travel and lodging expenses, the amount of which shall be decided on a case-to-case basis

SEC. 5. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) shall jointly formulate and plan the successful implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,