



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8655

Introduced by Representative Claude P. Bautista

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant discounts on certain transactions to overseas Filipino workers, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 8042, otherwise known as the "*Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995*," as amended.

In 2022, the Central Bank of the Philippines reported a new record of \$36.14 billion in remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), demonstrating their significant impact on the nation's economy. This figure underscores the immense economic value of OFWs and significant sacrifices they make for their families and the country.

Despite their substantial economic contribution, OFWs face several challenges, including several fees they must pay before their departure for the processing of necessary documents. These monetary obligations, including passport fees, various clearance fees, Philippine Statistics Authority fees, and placement fees, are burdensome and significantly reduce the net income of the OFWs.

This bill aims to further amend RA 8042, as amended, to alleviate this financial strain. It proposes a minimum discount of 20% on the abovementioned fees to provide immediate financial relief to OFWs and enable them to retain more of their hard-earned money.

This legislation is a pressing and necessary step to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of OFWs. By providing these financial reliefs, the essential role of OFWs is acknowledged in the society and their welfare and interests are protected.

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


CLAUDE BAUTISTA



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AN ACT

**GRANTING DISCOUNTS ON CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS TO
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE “MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF
1995,” AS AMENDED**

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

SECTION 1. A new section denominated as Section 36-A is inserted after
Section 36 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, to read as follows:

**“SEC. 36-A. DISCOUNTS. – THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
ARE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING DISCOUNTS:**

**“(A) AT LEAST 20% DISCOUNT ON THE PASSPORT ISSUANCE
AND RENEWAL FEES;**

**“(B) AT LEAST 20% DISCOUNT ON CLEARANCE AND OTHER
CERTIFICATION FEES ISSUED BY DIFFERENT LOCAL AND
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES;**

“(C) AT LEAST 20% DISCOUNT ON ALL PHILIPPINE

1 **RELATED DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT;**
2 **AND**

3 **“(D) AT LEAST 20% DISCOUNT ON PLACEMENT FEES.”**

4 SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or parts thereof inconsistent
5 with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are amended, modified or repealed
6 accordingly.

7 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
8 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9 Approved,