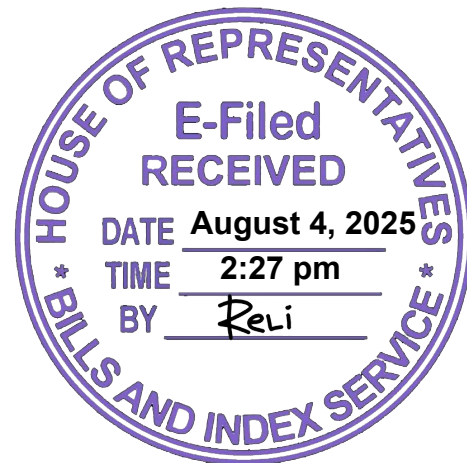


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2929**



Introduced by Representatives Bryan B. Revilla, Lani Mercado-Revilla, and Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) continue to play a vital role in sustaining the Philippine economy, sending billions in remittances annually while making personal sacrifices abroad. Despite this, many still shoulder costly requirements just to secure legal deployment, including mandatory insurance fees tied to the issuance of their Overseas Employment Certificates (OECs).

This bill seeks to provide free insurance coverage to all covered applicants of OECs. It ensures that every qualified OFW is automatically enrolled in an insurance program that includes benefits such as accidental death, disability, medical repatriation, and other essential protections. The measure aims to ease the financial burden on our migrant workers while reinforcing the government's responsibility to safeguard their welfare.

The necessary funding for this program will be sourced from the national budget and administered in coordination with the Department of Migrant Workers and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). In doing so, the bill affirms the State's commitment to protect OFWs and guarantees that financial constraints will not be a barrier to accessing basic insurance coverage.

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


REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
Representative, AGIMAT Partylist


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
Representative, 2nd District of Cavite


REP. RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III
Representative, 1st District of Cavite

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

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

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

SEC. 3. Benefits. - Covered migrant workers shall, upon securing an overseas employment certificate from the POEA or Philippine Embassy or consular offices abroad shall be given a free one-year insurance with the same or similar coverage as required under Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, otherwise known as the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act.”

SEC. 4. Funding. - The payment for the premium of the insurance provided under this Act shall be funded partly by the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) earmarked for the Assistance to Nationals and partly by the appropriations in the

General Appropriations Act as included in the budget of the POEA. For the first year of the implementation of this Act, an initial amount of Thirty Million Pesos (Php 30,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated. Thereafter, such amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

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

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,