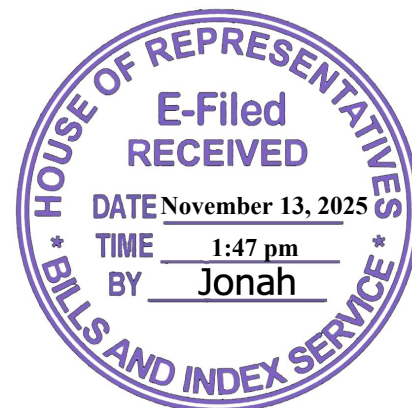


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5963



Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative measure seeks to amend Republic Act No. 11983, otherwise known as the "New Philippine Passport Act", to exempt all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) from the payment of fees for the application and issuance of new or renewed passports.

A study revealed that Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), often hailed as the nation's "modern-day heroes," have long served as vital contributors to the Philippine economy. While the country has seen improvements in employment rates, many Filipinos continue to seek opportunities abroad in pursuit of higher wages and better working conditions. Their continued service overseas not only uplifts their own families, but also sustains a steady flow of remittances that bolster the national economy and support domestic consumption. In 2023, the Philippines was the fourth largest recipient of remittances globally, with remittances accounting for nine percent of the country's GDP.

Given the valuable contributions of OFWs to the country, waiving passport fees serves as a meaningful recognition of their crucial role in nation-building. This initiative helps ease their financial burden, allowing them to allocate their resources toward more immediate and essential needs, particularly in supporting their families.

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


Ryan S. Recto
Representative
6th District, Batangas

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5963

Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

AN ACT
EXEMPTING ALL OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) FROM THE
ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF PASSPORT FEES, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 11983, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NEW PHILIPPINE PASSPORT
ACT"

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

1 SECTION 1. A new section after Section 16 of the Republic Act No. 11983,
2 otherwise known as the "New Philippine Passport Act", as amended, is hereby inserted
3 to read as follows:

4
5 "Section 16. *Fees.* - Reasonable fees shall be collected for the processing
6 and issuance of a passport or a travel document: *Provided*, That any fee
7 shall not be increased more than once every three (3) years.

8
9 **NO FEES SHALL BE IMPOSED OR COLLECTED FOR THE ISSUANCE**
10 **OR RENEWAL OF PASSPORTS FOR ALL OVERSEAS FILIPINO**
11 **WORKERS (OFWS). *PROVIDED*, THAT ALL PASSPORT**
12 **APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS SHALL BE DULY EVALUATED BY**
13 **THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA), WHICH SHALL**
14 **ENSURE THEIR PROMPT AND EFFICIENT PROCESSING, SUBJECT**
15 **TO VERIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
16 **MIGRANT WORKERS (DMW)."**

17
18 Sec. 2. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
19 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or portions not affected thereby shall
20 remain in full force and effect.

21
22 Sec. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
23 issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
24 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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Sec. 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,