

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7366



Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION THROUGH THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF JOB PLACEMENT OFFICES IN HIGHER
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT-
PROMOTING INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8759, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE ACT OF 1999, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes that while the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) system has significantly contributed to employment facilitation at the local government level, persistent challenges remain in addressing youth unemployment, school-to-work transition gaps, and skills mismatch. Many students and graduates complete their education without adequate access to timely labor market information, career guidance, and direct employment facilitation services that align education outcomes with actual industry demand.

Educational institutions, economic and freeport zones, employer and labor organizations, non-government organizations, and government-owned or controlled corporations already serve as critical interfaces between job seekers

and employers. However, the absence of a formalized and coordinated mechanism linking these institutions with the PESO system has resulted in fragmented employment facilitation efforts and underutilized labor market data.

This measure seeks to strengthen and expand the national employment facilitation network by mandating the establishment of Job Placement Offices (JPOs) in higher educational institutions and other employment-promoting institutions, and by formally linking these JPOs with the PESO system of local government units under the technical supervision of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Through this integrated approach, employment services are brought closer to students, graduates, and job seekers, while ensuring harmonized labor market information, improved job matching, and enhanced coordination among education, industry, and government.

Ultimately, this bill aims to promote full employment, facilitate smoother school-to-work transitions, and ensure that employment facilitation mechanisms are responsive to current and emerging labor market needs.

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


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ESTABLISHMENT OF JOB PLACEMENT OFFICES IN HIGHER
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT-
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REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8759, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE ACT OF 1999, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8759, otherwise known as the Public Employment Service Office Act of 1999, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is a declared policy of the State to promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all[, and for this purpose,]. **TO THIS END, THE STATE SHALL** strengthen and expand the [existing] employment facilitation service machinery of the government particularly at the local levels[.], **ADDRESS SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITIONS GAPS, SKILLS MISMATCH, AND**

FRAGMENTATION OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM, AND ENSURE EFFECTIVE COORDINATION AMONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) , HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (HEIs), OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (EIS), FREEPORT AND ECONOMIC ZONES, EMPLOYER AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS), AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCS) DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF FULL EMPLOYMENT.”

SEC. 2. Section 3 of R.A. No. 8759, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. Establishment of the Public Employment Service Office **AND JOB PLACEMENT OFFICES.** - To carry out the above declared policy, there shall be established in all provinces, cities, and municipalities a Public Employment Service Office, hereinafter referred to as ‘PESO’, which shall be operated and maintained by local government units (LGUs). The PESOs shall be linked to the regional offices of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for coordination and technical supervision, and to the DOLE central office, to constitute the national public employment service network.

The PESO shall be under the office of the governor, city or municipal mayor. The PESO shall be initially organized by and

composed of a PESO manager and may be assisted by a labor and employment officer (LEO) as may be determined by the LGU.

[Upon the request of accredited nongovernment organizations (NGOs) or educational institutions (EIs), the DOLE may enter into a memorandum of agreement for the NGO and EI to establish, operate and maintain a PESO and a job placement office, respectively.]

MOREOVER, IT SHALL BE MANDATORY FOR THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS TO ESTABLISH A JOB PLACEMENT OFFICE (JPO) AND PROVIDE NON-FEE-CHARGING EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO STUDENTS AND GRADUATES, AND, IN THE CASE OF EMPLOYER, LABOR, AND OTHER MEMBERSHIP-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, TO THEIR RESPECTIVE MEMBERS AND OTHER JOB SEEKERS.

(A) HEIS AND OTHER EIS, WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, DULY RECOGNIZED OR REGULATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, INCLUDING STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES;

(B) FREEPORT AND ECONOMIC ZONES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO R.A. NO. 7916,

**OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED;
(C)EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS;
(D)LABOR ORGANIZATIONS;
(E)NGOS; AND
(F)GOCCS.**

**FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF JPOS BY NGOS AND GOCCS
SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THOSE WHOSE MANDATES
INCLUDE EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION OR
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUNCTIONS.**

[To] **FURTHERMORE, TO** harmonize [the provision of]
employment **FACILITATION** services [in a given] **WITHIN A**
territorial jurisdiction, [the PESO at the NGOs and the job placement
office in EIs] **ALL JPOs** shall coordinate their activities with the
appropriate LGU PESO.”

SEC. 3. Section 5 of R.A. No. 8759, as amended, is hereby further
amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. Functions of the PESO. – The PESO shall have the
following functions:

(a) Encourage employers to submit to the PESO on a regular
basis a list of job vacancies in their respective establishments in
order to facilitate the exchange of labor market information between
job seekers and employers by providing employment information

services to job seekers[, both] for local [and overseas] employment, and recruitment assistance to employers;

(b) Develop and administer testing and evaluation instruments, **AS SANCTIONED UNDER EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS** for effective job selection[, training and counselling;] **AND SKILLS TRAINING INTERVENTIONS;**

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(e) Provide employment or occupational counselling, career guidance, [mass motivation and values development activities;] **AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT THROUGH THE PROVISION OF USEFUL LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, MASS MOTIVATION AND VALUES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES;**

(f) Conduct pre-employment [counselling] **COACHING** and orientation to prospective local [and, most especially, overseas] workers;

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(h) Prepare and submit to the local sanggunian an annual employment plan and budget including other regular funding sources and budgetary support of the PESO; [and]

(I) REQUIRE JPOS TO COORDINATE WITH THE APPROPRIATE LGU PESO FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES; AND

[(i)] **(J)** Perform such other functions necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.”

SEC. 4. Section 7 of R.A. No. 8759, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. Role of the DOLE [and], the LGUs, **AND THE HEIS.** – The LGUs **AND THE HEIS**, in coordination with the DOLE, shall establish the PESO[.] **AND THE JPO, RESPECTIVELY.**

It shall be the responsibility of the DOLE to:

(a) Provide technical supervision, coordination and capacity-building to the PESO **AND JPO**;

(b) Establish and maintain a computerized human resource and job registries to facilitate the provision and packaging of employment assistance to PESO **AND JPO** clients and the setting-up of intra- and interregional job clearance systems as part of the overall employment network;

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(d) Set standards for the establishment and operation of the PESO [office] **AND JPO**, and qualification standards for the PESO personnel;

(e) Extend other packages of employment services to the LGU, NGO, **FREEPORT AND ECONOMIC ZONE, EMPLOYER AND LABOR ORGANIZATION, GOCC, AND HEI** or EI concerned, including the conduct of job fairs, career development seminars, and other activities; [and]

(f) Monitor, assess, and evaluate the performance of the PESOs, including the [job placement offices in Els.] **JPOS; AND**

(G) ENSURE THAT ALL LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS, REGISTRIES, AND DATABASES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS ACT COMPLY WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012.

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The information shall be submitted to the PESO for job matching and to EIs, **ESPECIALLY HEIS**, for career guidance of the students.

It shall be the responsibility of the concerned LGU to:

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(iii) Extend such assistance and services as may be necessary in the promotion of employment **INCLUDING FREEPORT AND ECONOMIC ZONES, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS, GOCCS, HEIS, AND OTHER EIS** within the area of jurisdiction; and

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MEANWHILE, IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HEIS AND OTHER EIS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE ESTABLISHED ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, AS WELL AS FREEPORT AND ECONOMIC ZONES, EMPLOYER AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS, AND GOCCS, TO:

(A) SET UP A FACILITY AND PROVIDE LOGISTICAL AND RELATED SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION OF A JPO;

(B) OPERATE, MANAGE AND ADMINISTER THE JPO, WHICH WILL BE MANNED BY THE DESIGNATED STAFF;

(C) PROVIDE NON-FEE CHARGING EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, PARTICULARLY EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION SERVICES SUCH AS TESTING, JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE, EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER COACHING, PRIMARILY FOR STUDENTS

AND GRADUATES, AND IN COORDINATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE PESO;

(D) ESTABLISH A LABOR MARKET INFORMATION DATABASE, SUBJECT TO STANDARDS TO BE ISSUED BY THE DOLE, AND ENSURE ITS EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE OPERATION AS WELL AS ITS ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS;

(E) DESIGN AND PROVIDE AS NECESSARY, THE RELEVANT FORMS NEEDED TO GENERATE INFORMATION ON EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS OF INDUSTRIES THAT CAN BE USED AS INPUTS TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF ITS VARIOUS CURRICULA AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS;

(F) SHARE EXPERTISE IN DEVELOPING OR IMPLEMENTING APPROPRIATE PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND EMPLOYMENT COACHING INSTRUMENTS FOR USE IN THE JPOS, CONSISTENT WITH STANDARDS SET BY THE DOLE;

(G) HELP PROMOTE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION OF DOLE'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; AND

(H) SUBMIT REPORTS TO THE DOLE ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE JPO, COPY FURNISHED THE APPROPRIATE PESO."

SEC. 5. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 8759, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9. Funding. – The funding for the operation and maintenance of the PESO shall be provided by the LGU from its internal revenue allotment and other internally generated income of the LGU concerned. Likewise, the operation and maintenance of the [NGO PESOs and job placement offices of EIs] **JPOS** shall be charged against their internally generated income.

Funds for the provision of technical assistance, training, and supervision of the PESO **AND JPO** shall be included in the budget of the DOLE in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOLE, together with other concerned agencies, shall formulate and issue the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,