

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7912



Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a time-bound support mechanism by granting temporary financial assistance for qualified OFWs who have been awaiting re-deployment for a maximum period of three (3) months, to help them meet basic subsistence needs while their departure is pending. The proposed measure covers both land-based and sea-based OFWs. The program will be implemented by the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), with clear eligibility conditions and prompt issuance of implementing rules to ensure accountability and prevent duplication with existing assistance programs.

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) remain a vital pillar of the Philippine economy and of millions of Filipino households. The *Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)* reported that the number of OFWs was estimated at 2.19 million in 2024, with total remittances during the reference period reaching ₱262.20 billion (including cash sent, cash brought home, and in-kind).

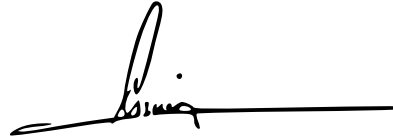
However, behind these macroeconomic gains are real and recurring vulnerabilities, particularly during the pre-deployment period, when an OFW has already secured overseas employment but experiences deployment delays due to circumstances beyond the worker’s control (e.g., employer deferment, host-country entry restrictions, processing backlogs, force majeure events). These delays commonly lead to loss of expected income, mounting debt from placement-related or preparatory costs, and household instability, especially for families that rely on remittances for basic needs.

Remittances are not merely savings but rather serves as basic support for day-to-day household spending. A *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Discussion Paper (2024)* finds that cash remittances significantly boost household spending, underscoring the immediate welfare impact when expected remittances are postponed or interrupted by re-deployment delays.

Moreover, recent BSP data show that overseas Filipino cash remittances continue to grow yearly. For instance, the BSP reported cash remittances rising 3.7% annually to

US\$3.12 billion in September 2025.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of the proposed measure is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Tiangco', is written over a solid horizontal line.

TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO
Representative
Lone District, Navotas City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7912

Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

**AN ACT GRANTING TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEAS
FILIPINO WORKERS WHO ARE AWAITING RE-DEPLOYMENT**

*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 Re-Deployment Financial Assistance Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Recognizing that delays in re-deployment expose OFWs to financial hardship despite having secured overseas employment, the State shall provide temporary financial assistance to qualified OFWs while awaiting re-deployment.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a) “*Overseas Filipino Worker*” refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a country of which he or she is not a citizen or as a seafarer on board a vessel navigating the foreign seas other than a government ship used for military or non-commercial purposes or on an installation located offshore or on the high seas; to be used interchangeably with migrant worker.

b) “*Seafarer*” refers to any person who is employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship other than a government ship used for military or non-commercial purposes. Provided, That Filipino crew members on board Philippine-flagged fishing vessels operating outside the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), pursuant to Republic Act No. 8550, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654, shall *not* be considered Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) for purposes of this Act.

c) “*Land-based Overseas Filipino Worker*” refers to an overseas Filipino worker other than a seafarer.

d) “*Re-deployment*” means the lawful overseas re-engagement of an OFW after the end or disruption of a prior employment contract, whether with the same or a new employer.

e) “*Documented Overseas Filipino Worker*” refers to a worker who possesses a valid passport and visa or permit to stay in the host country and whose contract of employment has been processed by the Department of Migrant Workers or its authorized agencies.

SEC. 4. Coverage. – This Act shall cover Overseas Filipino Workers, whether land-based or sea-based seafarer, who have completed all documentary and regulatory requirements and are awaiting re-deployment for a period of at least three (3) months due to circumstances beyond their control.

SEC. 5. Qualified Beneficiaries. – To qualify for assistance under this Act, an OFW must:

- (a) be documented and registered with the Department of Migrant Workers;
- (b) possess a valid overseas employment contract;
- (c) have remained unemployed and awaiting re-deployment for at least three (3) months; and
- (d) not be receiving similar assistance from another government program.

SEC. 6. Excluded Persons. – The following are excluded from the coverage of this Act:

- (a) OFWs who voluntarily have no valid overseas employment contract or those that deferred deployment without valid cause.

SEC. 7. Financial Assistance Amount. – Qualified beneficiaries shall receive financial assistance in the amount of Seventeen Thousand Pesos (₱17,000.00) per month for a maximum period of three (3) months or until re-deployment, whichever comes earlier.

SEC. 8. Implementing Agency. – The Department of Migrant Workers shall be the sole implementing agency of this Act.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Migrant Workers shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. Appropriations. – The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Migrant Workers and thereafter included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws and executive orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SEC 12. Separability Clause - In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other remaining provisions, which shall remain valid.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,