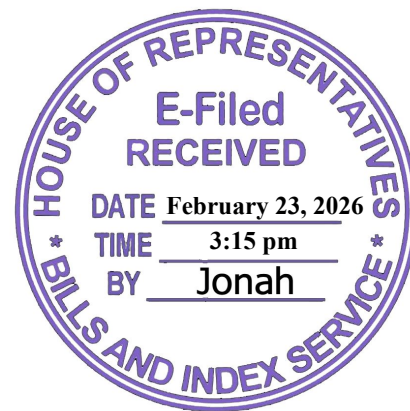


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 7958**



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Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**  
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) continue to serve as a vital pillar of the Philippine economy and a significant component of the country's labor force. Millions of Filipinos are deployed overseas across diverse occupational sectors, including maritime services, healthcare, skilled trades, domestic work, engineering, education, and technical professions. Their remittances contribute substantially to national economic stability and foreign exchange inflows, while their global competitiveness reflects the resilience and capability of Filipino labor.

A significant number of OFWs originate from the provinces and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). Despite their indispensable role in national development, many OFWs continue to face administrative burdens in securing documentary requirements for overseas employment, including passports, employment clearances, civil registry documents, social security registrations, and other government-issued certifications. The geographic concentration of frontline government services in Metro Manila and selected urban centers often compels departing or returning OFWs to incur additional travel expenses, forego income opportunities, and reduce valuable time with their families.

Republic Act No. 11641, or the "Department of Migrant Workers Act," consolidated the functions of key agencies and established the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) as the primary government agency responsible for the protection, promotion, and welfare of Filipino migrant workers. Consistent with the State policy under Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, to afford full protection to labor, and in furtherance of the mandate to streamline government services under Republic Act No. 11032, or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act," there is a need to strengthen and

institutionalize integrated, accessible, and decentralized service delivery mechanisms for OFWs.

While inter-agency One-Stop Service Centers for OFWs were previously established through administrative issuances, these mechanisms remain programmatic in nature and subject to policy discontinuity and funding limitations. The absence of statutory institutionalization constrains uniform nationwide implementation, long-term sustainability, and standardized coordination among participating agencies.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize and expand integrated OFW Service Centers under the supervision and policy direction of the Department of Migrant Workers, in coordination with relevant government agencies, without diminishing or altering their respective statutory mandates. The measure aims to ensure permanent, adequately funded, and decentralized service hubs that consolidate employment-related processing, documentation assistance, and inter-agency coordination, particularly in the provinces and underserved areas.

By embedding a unified and harmonized service delivery framework in statute, the State reinforces its commitment to migrant worker protection, enhances administrative efficiency, reduces transaction costs, and advances citizen-centered public service. This measure operationalizes existing national policy on migrant worker welfare while strengthening institutional coherence and accessibility for Filipino workers seeking opportunities abroad.

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



**ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS**  
*Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List*

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE REGIONAL ONE-STOP SHOP CENTERS**  
**FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS NATIONWIDE**

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

**SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Regional One-Stop Shop Centers for Overseas Filipino Workers (ROSSCO)” Act.

**SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote equal opportunities for employment for all Filipinos regardless of gender, ethnicity, residence, or religion and uphold their welfare at all times. Moreover, the State shall protect the right of all Filipinos for self-determination and, in particular, acknowledge that overseas work is a choice by Filipinos and, thus, to be fully supported by the government.

The State also recognizes that Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) significantly contribute to our country’s economic growth and national development through their foreign exchange remittances. In line with this, the State shall provide adequate, relevant, continuous, affordable, and accessible services and assistance to both existing and aspiring OFWs.

**SEC. 3.** *Regional One-Stop Service Centers for OFWs Nationwide.* - The Regional One-Stop Shop Centers for OFWs or ROSSCOs are hereby institutionalized nationwide.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), as the lead agency, shall ensure that there is at least one existing ROSSCO branch per region in the country. In choosing the location of a ROSSCO, the POEA, in coordination with participating agencies, shall consider existing government centers or hubs or places such as malls where there is a high volume of foot traffic. In addition, the POEA, in coordination with participating agencies, shall also determine the standard space requirements for ROSSCOs.

Every ROSSCO shall give utmost consideration to the needs of existing and future OFWs and shall ensure that the services of each participating agency are delivered efficiently. Every ROSSCO may also accommodate the concerns of other individuals, including the family and relatives of OFWs, but only after applications and concerns of OFWs have already been processed or addressed.

To ensure that all needs are addressed, the POEA, as the lead agency, may enter into agreements with concessionaires to provide other services such as digital ID printing, photocopy services, courier services, internet and printing services, telephone, prepaid load, cash, and online payment services, notarial services, etc. for a uniform and reasonable fee, subject to existing laws and regulations.

In no instance shall fixers be allowed within the premises of ROSSCOs or within considerable distance from the same.

**SEC. 4. *Complete ROSSCO Frontliners.*** - Every national government agency, department, office, and government-owned and controlled corporation, concerned with the issuance of necessary clearances, permits, identification cards, and related documents needed by OFWs, shall be part of ROSSCO in each region and shall provide manpower component, equipment, technology and systems necessary to address the needs of existing and future OFWs. The following agencies shall provide frontline services in every ROSSCO:

- a) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
- b) Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA);
- c) Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA);
- d) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- e) Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);
- f) Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA);
- g) Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF);
- h) Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);

- i) Social Security System (SSS);
- j) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- k) Bureau of Immigration (BI);
- l) National Bureau Investigation (NBI);
- m) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- n) Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA);
- o) Philippine National Police (PNP), and
- p) Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Every agency involved in the ROSSCO shall also ensure that their staff, including outsourced personnel such as security guards, shall be courteous at all times, accommodating to the needs of walk-in clients and those inquiring or applying online or through phone, and skilled enough to handle various queries and concerns of existing and future OFWs or their families, especially those with urgent needs or in crisis situations.

The POEA is hereby authorized to call the assistance of any government office not included in the enumeration above to provide frontline services temporarily or permanently to the extent that such agency is needed in a particular ROSSCO or in every branch nationwide. Such agencies called by POEA to participate shall not refuse to provide frontline services in ROSSCOs.

Nothing in this Act prohibits the participating agencies to enter into agreements with other government agencies or the private sector, outsourcing their services or training, and designating staff that will handle or provides multiple services; Provided, That the responsibility and liability of the designated staff shall be deemed as responsibility and liability of the agency mandated under the law; Provided further, That the efficient delivery of services shall not be hampered at all times; and Provided finally, That there will be no additional cost to the requesting OFW except the actual regulation fee or the true cost of the document requested.

**SEC. 5.** *Establishment of ROSSCOs vis-a-vis Concentration of OFWs.* - The POEA, in coordination with concerned agencies, may require additional personnel from participating agencies or may establish more than one ROSSCO or a satellite office with a lesser number of agencies, based on the following considerations per available data:

- a) A large concentration of OFWs coming from a particular region, province, or major city/municipality; and/or

- b) A large number of clients are being served by a particular ROSSCO.

**SEC. 6. *Streamlining and Digitization of ROSSCO Process.*** - In line with the mandate to provide ease in doing business, the process of each participating agency shall be streamlined with the end view of removing unnecessary and redundant steps and requirements and integrating the process and requirements of one agency with the others. The integrated process and requirements of each agency shall be communicated well and in advance to OFWs and other clients.

The ROSSCO Process shall also be digitized. The POEA, with the assistance of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall develop a ROSSCO website where existing OFWs, even those abroad, and other aspiring OFWs can inquire about or engage the services of participating agencies online.

Filling out forms shall also be digitized. Every client shall be assigned one reference number for all services and transactions he or she wants to avail of. The POEA shall ensure that there is a common database in every ROSSCO in order to prevent unnecessary or redundant filling out of application forms.

**SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The POEA, in coordination with concerned agencies especially those that are part of the ROSSCO as institutionalized in this Act, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations, including the list of services to be provided by each participating agency, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 8. *Appropriation.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act in the first year of its implementation shall be appropriated out of existing funds for the establishment or operationalization of ROSSCOs nationwide and of any other funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the respective budgets of the ROSSCO agencies under the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,