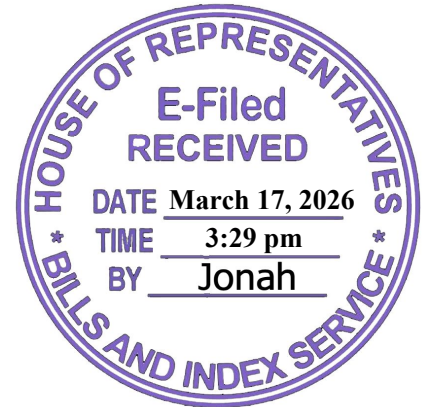


To Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8615



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION OF THE REMITTANCES OF
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is among the top remittance recipient countries in the world, ranking 4th last 2022, next to India, Mexico, and China.¹ In fact, just last December 2025, remittances from OFWs increased by 4.2%, translating to \$3.52 billion, driven by higher inflows from land-based workers.² These December remittances brought the total cash remittances for 2025 to a record high of \$35.63 billion, a 3.3% increase from the \$34.49 billion in 2024.³ The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reports that remittances accounted for 7.3% of our country's gross domestic product last 2025.⁴

Foreign remittance fees or other bank transfer fees widely vary per mode of transfer and channel or financial institution chosen. For instance, one bank in the Philippines charges a minimum of PHP150 for service fees for international transfers received via SWIFT. Other banks can charge between \$6.50 to \$10 for inward remittances. There are also additional charges when money transfers pass through intermediary banks.

Limiting the amount of charges and fees imposed on inward remittances will help ease the burden on OFWs and their beneficiaries in the country. OFWs already contribute so much, not just to their families, but also to the national economy. We must recognize and respect their hardwork, dedication, and sacrifice, by ensuring that their

¹<https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/what-we-do/world-migration-report-2024-chapter-2/international-remittances>

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1269149>

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

remittances are protected from increasing remittance fees and any other hidden charges.

This measure proposes that the Department of Finance, BSP, and Department of Migrant Workers, set the range of remittance fees and other related charges, which shall be minimal as possible, to be charged by banks, non-bank financial institutions, and other entities offering foreign remittance services to OFWs. These entities will also be prohibited from raising their current remittance fees without prior notice and approval of the BSP and DOF.

In addition, OFWs and their families shall be provided with a mandatory and free financial protection and literacy education. They will be educated on topics such as financial management, financial scams, consumer protection, and credit information. With this program, we wish to arm them with the necessary skills and knowledge to protect themselves and their hard-earned money.

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



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District, Parañaque City

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Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION OF THE REMITTANCES OF
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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 "Overseas Filipino Workers' (OFWs) Remittance Protection Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State affirms that labor is the primary social economic force and mandates the State to protect the rights of the workers and promote their welfare.

Recognizing the significant contribution of OFWs to the national economy through foreign exchange remittances, the State shall adopt measures to protect the hard-earned money they remit home against usurious interest rates and exorbitant fees. The State further recognizes the value in providing OFWs and their families adequate education and training on financial literacy, to help ensure a source of livelihood even after their overseas employment.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) *Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW)* refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which the person is not a citizen or 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) *Remittance* refers to the foreign exchange earnings sent home by OFWs or their employers or agents through banks or non-bank financial intermediaries (NBFIs), and other entities offering remittance services; and
- (c) *Remittance fee* refers to (i) the fee or charge imposed by banks or NBFIs for processing or sending the remittance of OFWs from the country of origin to the country of destination; and/or (ii) the charge for receiving the remittance at the country of destination. This also includes other currency conversion charges and other related charges associated with remittance services.

SEC. 4. Applicability of this Act. – The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all OFW remittances, whether voluntary or mandated by law, orders, issuances, or rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. Remittance Fees and Other Charges. - The Department of Finance (DOF), the BSP, and the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), after consultations with relevant stakeholders at regular intervals, shall set the range of remittance fees and other related charges, which shall be minimal as possible, to be charged by banks, NBFIs, and other entities offering foreign remittance services for OFWs. Provided, said entities are prohibited from raising their current remittance fees without prior notice and approval of the BSP and DOF.

SEC. 6. Posting of the Foreign Exchange Rates and Charges. – In addition to existing BSP regulations on disclosure requirements, all banks, NBFIs, and other entities offering remittance services for OFWs shall post in a conspicuous place within the establishment's premises, the Philippine peso equivalent rate of the foreign currencies being transacted. The Philippine peso equivalent of the amount as remitted shall be the same amount that the beneficiary of the remittance shall receive.

SEC. 7. Prohibited Acts. - The following are prohibited acts:

- (a) Misappropriation or conversion, to the prejudice of the OFW or the remittance beneficiary, of foreign exchange remittances received in trust, or on commission, or for administration, or under any other obligation involving the duty to make delivery of, or to return the same, or by denying having received such foreign exchange remittance;
- (b) Taking, mulcting, or skimming off foreign exchange remittances, without the written consent of the OFW, or releasing to the allottee or beneficiary a lower Philippine peso equivalent of the foreign currency transacted compared to the rate at the time of remittance;

- (c) Failure to post in a conspicuous place of the establishment the Philippine peso rate of the foreign currency being transacted; and
- (d) Failure to comply with the standard rates or matrix of rates set by the DOF, BSP, and the DMW pursuant to Section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 8. Penalties. - Any person who is found guilty of any of the acts described in Section 7 hereof shall be punished by a penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) months and one (1) day but not more than six (6) years, or a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00) but not exceeding Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP750,000.00), or both, upon the discretion of the court.

Aside from the liability provided in the preceding paragraph, any person found to have violated the provisions of this Act shall be subjected to fines, penalties, and sanctions as provided under Republic Act No. 7653, or "The New Central Bank Act," as amended, Republic Act No. 8791, or "The General Banking Law of 2000," and other pertinent banking regulations.

In case the violation is committed by a juridical person, the liability shall be imposed on the president, managing director or partner, general manager, or other responsible directors, officers or employees of the juridical person.

SEC. 9. Free Mandatory Financial Education for OFWs and their Families. – All OFWs and their families shall be required to undergo a mandatory continuing financial protection and literacy education, which shall be free-of-charge. The training shall be an integral part of the Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) for prospective OFWs and their families. It shall also be part of the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) for departing OFWs and the Post-Arrival Orientation Seminar (PAOS) on-site. In addition, all Migrant Workers' Offices (MWOs), embassies, or consulates shall regularly conduct a continuing financial literacy program for OFWs on-site.

SEC. 10. Implementing Agencies. - The DMW and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), as the lead agencies shall, in coordination with the Technical Skills and Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for LGUs of OFW communities or localities, the DOF, the BSP, and partner BSFIs, implement the mandatory continuing financial protection and literacy education, either separately or in collaboration with all or some of the responsible agencies.

Under the program, OFWs and their families shall be educated on the following critical topics, among others: financial management and responsibility, financial opportunities and pitfalls, disinformation and financial scams, consumer protection, protection on mortgaged or collateralized properties, and credit information on micro- and small-scale enterprises. It shall also include information on Obligations and Contracts, Credit

Transactions, Interests, Pledges, Mortgages, Guarantees, and investing in financial products, such as stocks, bonds, insurance, and mutual funds.

SEC. 11. Liability under the Revised Penal Code and Other Laws. – Prosecution under this Act shall be without prejudice to any liability for violation of any provision of the Revised Penal Code or other special laws.

SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DMW and OWWA shall, in consultation with the BSP, DOF, DILG, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB), Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP), Cooperative Banks Federation of the Philippines (BANGKOOP), Association of Bank Remittance Officers, Inc. (ABROI), Philippine Association of Foreign Exchange Dealers (PAFED), Money Changers and Remittance Agents, Inc. (MCRAI), Association of Remittance Company Compliance Officers (ARCCO), organizations of licensed recruitment or manning agencies, non-government organizations advocating the rights and welfare of OFWs, and other stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, within ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

Unjustified or willful failure or refusal of the concerned government agencies to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within the specified period shall subject the heads of these government agencies to administrative penalties under applicable civil service laws.

Should the IRR contain provisions that are contrary to this Act, the heads of the government agencies responsible for such provision, when done in bad faith or with gross negligence, shall be held administratively liable.

SEC. 13. Separability Clause. — If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 14. 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. 15. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,