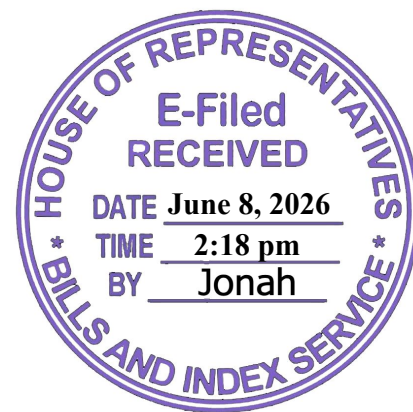


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9830



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize a comprehensive and accessible financial education program for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families. This promotes financial security, informed decision-making, and the productive use of remittances.

OFWs continue to play a vital role in the Philippine economy through the remittances they send to support their families and contribute to national development. Despite these contributions, many OFWs and their households remain vulnerable to excessive debt, fraudulent investment schemes, and financial mismanagement.

Financial literacy is essential to ensure that the earnings of OFWs translate into sustainable economic gains for themselves and their families. Equipping them with practical knowledge on budgeting, savings, investments, credit management, insurance, and consumer protection strengthens their capacity to build financial resilience and prepare for future uncertainties.

This measure integrates mandatory and regularly updated financial education into the migration cycle by incorporating such training into Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars (PDOS) and Post-Arrival Training Seminars (PATS). It likewise extends financial education services to the families of OFWs through online and community-based platforms, recognizing their invaluable role in managing remittances and household finances. The bill further strengthens public awareness against online scams, fraudulent schemes, predatory lending practices, and other financial threats that target OFWs and their dependents.

Consistent with the State's constitutional duty to protect labor and promote the welfare of Filipino workers overseas, this measure empowers OFWs and their families with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve long-term financial stability and maximize the benefits of overseas employment.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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House Bill No. **9830**

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A FREE FINANCIAL EDUCATION TO OVERSEAS
FILIPINO WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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 “*Free OFW Financial Education Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to afford full protection to local and overseas labor and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all. Toward this end, the State shall have the continuous duty to acknowledge the valuable contribution of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to our economy through their remittances. In doing so, the State shall adopt measures that will take care of the welfare and benefits of OFWs and their families like the provision for a free financial education or literacy training to equip them with enough knowledge for a proper and wise use of their hard-earned money.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all OFWs, either land-based or sea-based, documented or otherwise, and their families.

SEC. 4. *Mandatory Financial Education Seminar.* – All OFWs shall undergo mandatory and continuously updated financial education or literacy training seminars which shall become an integral part of the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars (PDOS) of departing OFWs. Moreover, Post-Arrival Training Seminars (PATs) on financial education or literacy shall likewise be required of OFWs within a reasonable time upon arrival in their respective countries of destination on their first employment contract, or those who transfer from one place of work to another without stopping by the

Philippines. Overseas Filipino Seafarers shall have the option of attending these continuously updated financial education or literacy training seminars at their respective points-of-hire, or within a reasonable time, after their return to the Philippines.

Families of OFWs throughout the Philippines shall likewise be equipped with financial education and knowledge through on-line seminars and other feasible and effective means.

SEC. 5. *Participating Agencies.* – The PDOS and PATS shall be primarily conducted by the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), as the lead agency, in coordination with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the Department of Finance (DOF), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and all the barangays under it, and the accredited PDOS providers across the country, including the embassies or consulates, whichever may be available, in the countries of destination.

As the lead agency, the DMW is tasked to formulate training modules on financial education or literacy, initiate and conduct training programs on financial management and responsibility; apprise OFWs on financial opportunities and pitfalls, among others; ensure the accessibility of qualified online financial and economic advisors and/or counselors; and disseminate knowledge-expanding activities that promote financial education or literacy among OFWs and their dependents.

SEC. 6. *Free Financial Education Programs.* – Financial education or literacy training programs undertaken under this Act shall be free-of-charge.

The DMW shall, in coordination with the OWWA, the DOF, and the BSP, educate the OFWs and their families on the following financial subjects, issues or programs: Consumer Protection, Protection on Mortgaged or Collateralized Properties, Avoidance of Exorbitant Interests on Loans or Debts, and Credit Information on Micro-and Small-Scale Enterprises to prospective lenders.

Financial education shall also include information on Obligations and Contracts, Credit Transactions, Interests, Pledges, Mortgages, Guarantees, and Knowledge on Financial Products such as stocks, bonds, insurance, and mutual funds, which are available in the market.

The DMW shall regularly coordinate with the Department of Information and Communications Technology and social media companies to disallow posts and messages that are meant to confuse, mislead, victimize,

defraud or entice OFWs and their families to engage in gambling and other similar activities, including on-line scams, pyramiding schemes, and the like.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the DMW shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the OWWA, the Secretary of the DOF, the Governor of the BSP, and the Secretary of the DILG, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations which may be inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect other provisions not affected thereby.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,