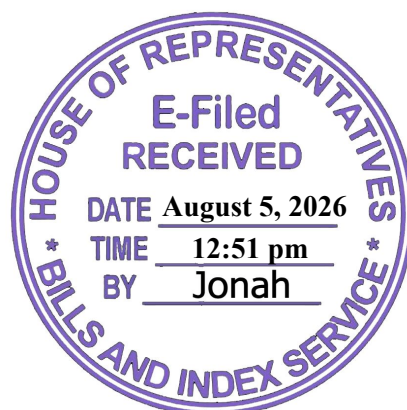




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10625



Introduced by Representative Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10912, otherwise known as the *Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act of 2016*, was enacted to institutionalize lifelong learning among Filipino professionals and ensure that they remain competent, globally competitive, and responsive to the ever-evolving demands of their respective professions. The law recognizes that continuing professional education is essential to safeguarding public welfare and maintaining the integrity of regulated professions.

Nearly a decade after its enactment, however, experience has demonstrated that the mandatory application of the law does not sufficiently account for the unique circumstances of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), particularly those who continuously practice their professions exclusively outside the Philippines.

The Philippines continues to be one of the world's leading sources of highly skilled professionals. A substantial number of Filipino professionals continue to build long-term careers overseas. These Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) include licensed nurses, engineers, architects, physicians, accountants, teachers, physical therapists, and other professionals who are already subject to stringent licensing, accreditation, continuing education, competency assessment, and professional development requirements imposed by foreign governments, professional regulatory authorities, employers, and internationally recognized institutions. In many jurisdictions, compliance with these requirements is mandatory to retain the legal authority to practice.

Despite continuously maintaining their professional competence abroad, these Filipino professionals are likewise required under Republic Act No. 10912 to earn Philippine Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit units solely for the renewal of their Professional Identification Cards (PICs). For many OFWs, compliance entails considerable financial cost, logistical difficulty, and administrative inconvenience. Accredited CPD providers are often inaccessible from their countries of employment, while attending seminars in the Philippines frequently requires taking leave from work, incurring travel expenses, or disrupting existing contractual obligations.

Consequently, professionals who are already complying with rigorous foreign continuing education systems are effectively required to satisfy duplicative regulatory requirements that do not necessarily enhance their competence beyond what has already been demonstrated in their respective jurisdictions.

This measure then seeks to rationalize the implementation of Republic Act No. 10912 by exempting **qualified Overseas Filipino Workers** from the mandatory CPD requirement for the renewal of their PICs. This bill does not diminish the value of Continuing Professional Development. Rather, it recognizes that qualified Overseas Filipino Workers are already engaged in continuous professional learning under internationally recognized regulatory systems. By eliminating unnecessary duplication while preserving safeguards for professionals who practice in the Philippines, the measure promotes a more responsive, practical, and equitable implementation of the CPD Act.

It likewise serves as a meaningful recognition of the invaluable contributions of Overseas Filipino Workers, whose professional expertise not only enhances the global reputation of the Filipino workforce but also sustains millions of Filipino families through remittances and significantly contributes to the country's economic growth.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Garcia", is written on a light pink rectangular background.

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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10625

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AN ACT

**EXEMPTING QUALIFIED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) FROM THE
COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10912, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016**

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10912 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – The following terms shall be defined under this Act:

xxx

**(X) QUALIFIED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) REFERS TO
FILIPINO PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE
OF THEIR PROFESSION EXCLUSIVELY OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES
WITH A SERVICE CONTRACT OF AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS OR HAS
BEEN PRACTICING THEIR PROFESSION OUTSIDE OF THE
PHILIPPINES FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE YEARS."**

xxx

Sec. 2. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 10912 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"Sec. 10. CPD as Mandatory Requirement in the Renewal of Professional
License and Accreditation System for the Practice of Professions.** – The CPD is
hereby made as a mandatory requirement in the renewal of the PICs of all registered
and licensed professionals under the regulation of the PRC, **EXCEPT WITH
REGARD TO QUALIFIED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AS
DEFINED IN SECTION 3, PARAGRAPH (X) OF THIS ACT.**

**A PROFESSIONAL WHO IS PRACTICING OR WHO INTENDS TO
PRACTICE HIS/HER PROFESSION IN COUNTRIES COVERED BY
BILATERAL, REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN
WHICH CPD IS A RECOGNITION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT,
SUCH AS THE ASEAN MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS (MRAS),
SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT."**

Sec. 3. A new Section 10-A of Republic Act No. 10912 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

1 **"SEC. 10-A. CPD COMPLIANCE FOR RETURNING PROFESSIONALS. –**
2 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY COMMISSION SHALL**
3 **ESTABLISH A CPD COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR RETURNING**
4 **PROFESSIONALS WHO WERE EXEMPTED AS QUALIFIED OVERSEAS**
5 **FILIPINO WORKERS IN PRIOR COMPLIANCE PERIODS AND WISH TO**
6 **RESUME THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSIONS IN THE**
7 **PHILIPPINES."**

8 **Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Professional Regulatory Commission shall
9 promulgate the necessary amendments to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No.
10 10912 within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

11 **Sec. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional,
12 the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

13 **Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, and other issuances or
14 parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
15 modified accordingly.

16 **Sec. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
17 Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18 **Approved,**