



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11117



Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sa araw-araw, milyon-milyong mga Pilipino ang nililisan ang kanilang tahanan bago magbukang-liwayway, iniirwan ang kanilang pamilya at kadalasan maging ang ating bansa upang mamasukan at mag-alaga ng hindi nila anak at ng ibang pamilya.

Likas na mapagmahal ang mga Pilipino. Madali nating makapalagayan ng loob ang mga taong nakasalamuha natin, lalo na kung palagi natin silang kapiling. Ngunit masakit para sa isang magulang na higit na maalagaan ang mga anak na hindi niya kadugo kaysa sa sarili niyang anak.

Filipino kasambahay prepare another family's meals, comfort another family's children when they cry, and stay awake when someone else's child is sick, while their own children wait for them, often under the care of a grandmother, an older sibling, or a neighbor, for months or even years at a time. **This is the quiet burden carried by the Filipino kasambahay:** *those who give the best of their care to households that are not their own, often at the cost of the time and presence they wish they could give their own children.*

Based on a recent joint survey of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), there are approximately 1.4 million kasambahay in the Philippines¹. Of this number, the majority are on a live-out arrangement, leaving their own households each day to care for another family's home and children. The same survey found that 83 per cent of kasambahay have no social security coverage at all, leaving them and their families exposed in the event of illness, disability, or

¹<https://nwpc.dole.gov.ph/dole-and-psa-survey-1-4-million-kasambahays-in-the-country-72-on-live-out-arrangement-2/>

old age, on top of the earnings they have spent by being away from their own children for most of the day².

For those who leave the country to work as domestic helpers, the burden is even heavier. The PSA reported that the number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) rose to 2.19 million in 2024, from 2.16 million in 2023, with women comprising 57.2 per cent, or 1.25 million, of this workforce³. Approximately four (4) out of every ten (10) OFWs are in elementary occupations, which include domestic and household work. Moreover, Filipina household service workers are heavily concentrated in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Hong Kong⁴. Estimates from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) place domestic workers at 20 to 30 per cent of all OFWs deployed each year. These figures demonstrate that household service work is one of the most common forms of overseas employment for Filipino women.

Hindi lamang ito basta mga numero... sa likod ng bawat datos na ito ay ang mga anak na naiiwan ng kanilang mga magulang na naghahanapbuhay. Researchers estimate that at least 1.5 million Filipino children are growing up with one or both parents working overseas. A study published in The Lancet Regional Health – Western Pacific linked prolonged parental separation to loneliness, emotional strain, and health and developmental concerns among left-behind children, even as the remittances sent by their parents help support their education⁵.

This is the irony this bill seeks to address: the very people entrusted with the care of other people's children often cannot afford the time, presence, or financial security to *properly* care for their own. Albeit existing laws such as Republic Act (RA) No. 10361, otherwise known as “Batas Kasambahay Act” and RA No. 8042, as amended by RA No. 10022 or the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act”, protect the kasambahay as a worker, there remains no law that directly assists them in their role as parents.

The Kasambahay Parents Support Act aims to fill this gap. It provides monthly cash assistance to Kasambahay Parents, whether locally employed or deployed overseas, for the benefit of their qualified children left at home. This measure also addresses the concern that 83 per cent of kasambahay currently have no social security coverage.

²<https://dole.gov.ph/news/dole-psa-1-4m-hswn-72-on-liveout/>

³ philstar.com/business/2025/12/19/2495253/ofws-rise-219-million-2024-psa

⁴<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1758590/sws-survey-says-7-of-filipino-households-have-an-ofw>

⁵ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9391573/>

The bill gives beneficiaries the option to apply the cash assistance toward their Social Security System (SSS) contributions, thereby enabling them to build long-term social protection for themselves and their families.

Kasambahay devote their care, patience, and time to families that are not their own. It is only just that the State, in turn, help them care for the families waiting for them at home.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMA.', is positioned above the printed name.

JC M. Abalos

Representative

4Ps Partylist



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AN ACT PROVIDING CASH ASSISTANCE TO KASAMBAHAY PARENTS, INCLUDING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER (OFW) HOUSEHOLD SERVICE WORKERS, WITH THE OPTION TO CONVERT SUCH ASSISTANCE INTO SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) CONTRIBUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "*Kasambahay Parents Support Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution and to promote the welfare of Filipino children, whether their parents work within the Philippines or abroad. Consistent with Republic Act (RA) No. 10361, or the "Batas Kasambahay," and RA No. 8042, as amended by RA No. 10022, or the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act," the State recognizes that Kasambahay who are parents, whether employed locally or deployed overseas as household service workers, face a distinct burden in balancing their duty to their employers' households with their duty to their own children left at home. Towards this end, the State shall extend cash assistance to qualified Kasambahay parents to help ensure the welfare of their minor children, shall allow such assistance to instead be applied towards the beneficiary's long-term social security protection at the beneficiary's option, and shall ensure that such assistance complements, and does not duplicate, existing welfare programs for overseas Filipino workers.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- a) *Kasambahay* or domestic worker refers to any person engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship, as defined under RA No. 10361;
- b) *OFW Kasambahay* refers to a Filipino domestic worker or household service worker deployed for overseas employment under a

contract processed and verified by the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW);

- c) *Kasambahay Parent* refers to a Kasambahay or an OFW Kasambahay who has one or more Qualified Children, regardless of civil status;
- d) *Qualified Child* refers to a child of a Kasambahay Parent who is below eighteen (18) years of age and who is left in the child's home in the Philippines, or in the care of another person other than the Kasambahay Parent, for the greater part of the day or, in the case of a live-in Kasambahay or an OFW Kasambahay, for the duration of the Kasambahay Parent's live-in employment or overseas deployment;
- e) *Local Guardian* refers to the relative or other person residing in the Philippines whom an OFW Kasambahay has designated, in a manner prescribed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), as the person in whose care the Qualified Child is left, and through whom the benefits under this Act shall be coursed on behalf of the Qualified Child;
- f) *Cash Assistance* refers to the monthly financial assistance granted under this Act to a qualified Kasambahay Parent; and
- g) *SSS Contribution Option* refers to the option of a qualified Kasambahay Parent to have the amount of the Cash Assistance applied instead as a contribution to their mandatory coverage under the Social Security System (SSS), in accordance with Section 6 hereof.

SEC. 4. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to: (a) all Kasambahay, regardless of civil status, who are employed under a valid employment arrangement recognized under RA No. 10361; and (b) all OFW Kasambahay, regardless of civil status, who are deployed under a valid overseas employment contract processed and verified by the DMW, in either case who have at least one (1) Qualified Child left at home while the Kasambahay Parent is at work: *Provided*, That where both parents of a Qualified Child are themselves Kasambahay Parents, whether one or both are deployed overseas, only one (1) of them shall be qualified to avail of the Cash Assistance or SSS Contribution Option under this Act with respect to that child: *Provided, further*, That a Kasambahay Parent may avail of the benefits under this Act for not more than three (3) Qualified Children at any given time.

SEC. 5. Cash Assistance. — Cash assistance equivalent to One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) per month shall be given to Kasambahay Parents who are covered under this Act, for every Qualified Child, subject to the limits set in Section 4 hereof.

In the case of an OFW Kasambahay, the Cash Assistance shall be released to the Local Guardian for the benefit of the Qualified Child, in a manner to be prescribed by the DSWD, without prejudice to the OFW Kasambahay's right to exercise the option under Section 6.

To account for inflation and align the assistance with legislated wage increases, the amount of cash assistance shall be reviewed by Congress every three (3) years, in consultation with the DSWD, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the DMW.

SEC. 6. *Option to Convert Assistance into SSS Contribution.* - A qualified Kasambahay Parent shall have the option to either: (a) receive the full amount of the Cash Assistance under Section 5; or (b) have the equivalent amount applied as an additional contribution to their mandatory coverage under the Social Security System (SSS), whether such mandatory coverage arises under the Batas Kasambahay for a locally-employed Kasambahay, or under RA No. 11199, otherwise known as the "Social Security Act of 2018," for an OFW Kasambahay, to be remitted directly by the DSWD to the SSS on behalf of the beneficiary.

The choice between the two options under this Section shall be made by the Kasambahay Parent upon registration as a beneficiary, and may be changed once every twelve (12) months through a written request filed with the DSWD, the concerned local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO), or, in the case of an OFW Kasambahay, through the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) or Philippine Embassy or Consulate having jurisdiction over the OFW Kasambahay's place of deployment.

SEC. 7. *Coordination with the Department of Migrant Workers and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.* - The Cash Assistance and SSS Contribution Option under this Act are granted on account of the welfare of the Qualified Child, and are separate and distinct from the member-directed benefits provided by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to OFWs under existing law. Availment of the benefits under this Act shall not diminish, and shall not be a ground for the denial of, any benefit to which an OFW Kasambahay or their dependents are otherwise entitled under OWWA membership or any other program for OFWs.

The DSWD shall enter into a data-sharing agreement with the DMW and OWWA for purposes of verifying the deployment status and OWWA membership of an OFW Kasambahay applying for benefits under this Act, and to ensure that no Qualified Child is the subject of duplicate availment of any substantially similar cash or in-kind benefit for the same purpose under this Act and under any program administered by the DMW or OWWA.

SEC. 8. *Age Limit and Termination of Benefit.* - The Cash Assistance or SSS Contribution Option granted under this Act shall be extended only for as long as the Qualified Child concerned is below eighteen (18) years of age. Upon the Qualified Child reaching eighteen (18) years of age, the corresponding Cash Assistance or SSS Contribution Option for that child shall automatically cease, without prejudice to the continuation of benefits for any other Qualified Child who remains eligible under this Act.

SEC. 9. *Conditionalities.* - The Cash Assistance or SSS Contribution Option shall be released by the DSWD, with the support of the concerned local government units (LGUs) and, for OFW Kasambahay, the concerned

MWO or Philippine Embassy or Consulate, subject to the following conditions:

- a) The Qualified Child or Qualified Children is/are enrolled in school, whether public or private, with at least 85 percent (85 %) attendance, unless below school age;
- b) The Kasambahay Parent remains employed as a Kasambahay under a valid employment arrangement recognized under RA No. 10361, or, in the case of an OFW Kasambahay, remains deployed under a valid overseas employment contract processed and verified by the DMW;
- c) The Kasambahay Parent submits, at least once a year, proof of the child's living arrangement and caregiving arrangement while the Kasambahay Parent is at work, in a manner to be prescribed by the DSWD;
- d) Where both parents of a Qualified Child are Kasambahay Parents, the parents shall jointly execute a written declaration identifying which of them shall avail of the benefits under this Act with respect to that child, in a manner to be prescribed by the DSWD; and
- e) An OFW Kasambahay shall submit the name and proof of relationship of the Local Guardian designated to receive the Cash Assistance on behalf of the Qualified Child, and shall notify the DSWD of any change in such designation.

SEC. 10. *Non-Duplication of Benefits Under Other Social Protection Programs.* – A Qualified Child who is already a listed beneficiary of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) or any other social protection, cash transfer, or subsidy program administered by the national government or any LGU granting substantially similar cash or in-kind assistance for the same purpose shall not be qualified to receive the Cash Assistance or SSS Contribution Option under this Act, unless such other program's cash grant has been suspended, terminated, or the household has been delisted therefrom.

The DSWD shall cross-match the registry of applicants under this Act against the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and the 4Ps beneficiary registry, and against the registries of other national government social protection programs, prior to approval of any application, and on at least an annual basis thereafter, to prevent duplicate availment.

Where a Qualified Child is found to be a beneficiary of another program under this Section after the Kasambahay Parent has already been receiving benefits under this Act, the DSWD shall suspend further release of the Cash Assistance or SSS Contribution Option for that child until such time as the duplication is resolved, without prejudice to the recovery of any benefit shown to have been fraudulently obtained.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Agency.* - The DSWD, in coordination with the DOLE, the SSS, the DMW, OWWA, and the concerned local government

(LGUs), shall implement the provisions of this Act. The DSWD shall maintain a registry of Kasambahay Parent beneficiaries, drawing from the registry of Kasambahay maintained under Batas Kasambay and, for OFW Kasambahay, from the deployment and membership records of the DMW and OWWA, and shall put in place a mechanism to prevent duplicate availment under Section 4 where both parents of a Qualified Child are Kasambahay Parents.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and Employment, the Secretary of Migrant Workers, and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the SSS, in consultation with stakeholders, shall promulgate the IRR necessary for the effective implementation of this Act. This includes the targeting, screening, and registration of beneficiaries, the designation and verification of Local Guardians, and the procedure for exercising the option under Section 6 of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DSWD, DOLE, DMW, and LGUs. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders and proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* -If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any instrumentalities or entities or circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason or reasons, the remainder of this Act or the application of such other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

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

Approved,