

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session



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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1464

Submitted by the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs on June 3, 2025

Re : House Bill No. 11525

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4978, 7180, 11026, 11130, 11132, 11136 and 11160

Sponsors : Representatives Jude A. Acidre and Salvador A. Pleyto

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Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs to which were referred House Bill No. 4978, introduced by Representative Alfred C. Delos Santos, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REINTEGRATION OF REPATRIATED OFWS INTO THE PHILIPPINE WORKFORCE AND BUSINESS SECTOR

House Bill No. 7180, introduced by Representative Geraldine B. Roman, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ENHANCED BENEFITS, WELFARE, AND REINTEGRATION OF REPATRIATED FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS INTO THE PHILIPPINE WORKFORCE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

House Bill No. 11026, introduced by Representative Crispin Diego "Ping" D. Remulla, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REINTEGRATION OF REPATRIATED OFWS INTO THE PHILIPPINE WORKFORCE AND BUSINESS SECTOR

House Bill No. 11130, introduced by Representative Marissa "Del Mar" P. Magsino, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INTEGRATED REINTEGRATION PROGRAM OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS RETURNING TO THE PHILIPPINES

House Bill No. 11132, introduced by Representatives Lordan G. Suan, Michael M. Morden, Dale B. Corvera, and Bienvenido M. Abante, Jr., entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FULL-CYCLE REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS), ENSURING THEIR SMOOTH AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

House Bill No. 11136, introduced by Representative Jude A. Acidre, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ENHANCED BENEFITS, WELFARE, AND REINTEGRATION OF REPATRIATED FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS INTO THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

and House Bill No. 11160, introduced by Representative Salvador A. Pleyto, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REINTEGRATION OF REPATRIATED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS INTO THE PHILIPPINE WORKFORCE AND BUSINESS SECTOR

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 11525, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4978, 7180, 11026, 11130, 11132, 11136, and 11160, with Representatives Jude A. Acidre, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Geraldine B. Roman, Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla, Marissa “Del Mar” P. Magsino, Lordan G. Suan, Michael M. Morden, Bienvenido M. Abante, Jr., Salvador A. Pleyto, Danny A. Domingo, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Felimon M. Espares, Bonifacio L. Bosita and Raoul Danniell A. Manuel as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



REP. JUDE A. ACIDRE

Chairperson

Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **11525**  
(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 4978, 7180, 11026,  
11130, 11132, 11136, and 11160)

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Introduced by

Representatives Jude A. Acidre, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Geraldine B. Roman, Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla, Marissa “Del Mar” P. Magsino, Lordan G. Suan, Michael M. Morden, Bienvenido M. Abante, Jr., Salvador A. Pleyto, Danny A. Domingo, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Felimon M. Espares, Bonifacio L. Bosita, and Raoul Dannel A. Manuel

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**AN ACT**

**ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE  
REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

*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 “Bagong Balikbayan Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the invaluable contributions of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to national development and is committed to upholding their fundamental rights, including the right to equal opportunity, decent living, dignity, and participation in decision-making processes affecting their lives and well-being. Further, it is the declared policy of the State to:

- (a) Implement a comprehensive, integrated, and sustainable reintegration program for returning OFWs, addressing economic, social, psychosocial, gender-responsive, and cultural dimensions, regardless of their documentation status;
- (b) Ensure such reintegration programs are customized to the needs and skill of OFWs and mainstreamed throughout the migration cycle and promote:
  - (1) Access to local employment, entrepreneurship, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and other livelihood opportunities;
  - (2) Development of financial literacy programs; and
  - (3) Attainment of economic self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial well-being for returning OFWs and their families.
- (c) Foster conditions where migration is a matter of choice rather than necessity; and
- (d) Collaborate with relevant public and private stakeholders in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of reintegration programs and assistance.

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

- (a) *Full-cycle Reintegration Program* refers to interventions starting with the pre-departure stage, on-site support during employment, and assistance upon return;

- 1 (b) *Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW)* refers to a Filipino who is to be engaged, is engaged,  
2 or has been engaged in remunerated activity in a country of which he or she is not an  
3 immigrant, citizen, or permanent resident or is not awaiting naturalization, recognition,  
4 or admission, whether land-based or sea-based regardless of status; excluding a Filipino  
5 engaged under a government-recognized exchange visitor program for cultural and  
6 educational purposes;  
7
- 8 (c) *Reintegration* refers to a multi-dimensional process enabling OFWs to re-establish  
9 economic, social, and psychosocial well-being upon return; and  
10
- 11 (d) *Undocumented OFW* refers to an OFW not registered with the Philippine government as  
12 an OFW, or whose documents are incomplete or invalid. An undocumented OFW is also  
13 known as an “irregular OFW”;  
14

15 SEC. 4. *Applicability.* – This Act shall apply to all returnee-OFWs, irrespective of their  
16 typology and status, including:  
17

- 18 (a) Land-based and sea-based OFWs;  
19 (b) Documented or undocumented OFWs;  
20 (c) OFWs who have been voluntarily or mandatorily repatriated, regardless of the grounds  
21 for such repatriation;  
22 (d) OFWs returning to the country due to retirement or upon the termination of their  
23 employment contract; and  
24 (e) OFWs returning to the country due to distressing circumstances in the host country, such  
25 as war or conflict, economic instability, abuse or exploitation, pandemics, natural  
26 disasters or diplomatic fallout.  
27

28 This Act shall also extend to OFWs who require targeted assistance, including senior or solo-  
29 parent OFWs. Furthermore, the families of returnee-OFWs shall likewise be covered and benefited  
30 by the provisions of this Act, subject to and as may be further detailed within the implementing rules  
31 and regulations promulgated hereto.  
32

33 SEC. 5. *Access to Employment Opportunities and Qualification Recognition.* –  
34

- 35 (a) *Job Fairs.* The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), together with the Overseas  
36 Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) shall, in coordination with the Department of  
37 Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade  
38 and Industry (DTI), Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of  
39 Education, Department of Health (DOH), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Commission  
40 on Higher Education (CHED), Public Employment Service Office, and in consultation  
41 with concerned business chambers and groups in the private sector, private enterprises  
42 recognized for ensuring security of tenure, humane conditions of work, and a living wage,  
43 and relevant Local Government Units (LGUs), plan and conduct regular series of job fairs  
44 in strategic sites and LGUs where there are significant presence of returnee-OFWs.  
45

46 These job fairs shall facilitate employment opportunities in: (1) The private sector; (2)  
47 The national or local government, including their agencies, bureaus, offices,  
48 instrumentalities, and government-owned and/or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), for  
49 civil service qualified OFWs; and (3) Academic and non-academic positions in public  
50 schools, and state colleges and universities. Such job fairs shall take into consideration  
51 the specific skills, credentials, eligibilities, and experience acquired by OFWs from  
52 working overseas.

- 1  
2 (b) Expanded Employment Facilitation. The DMW and other concerned government  
3 agencies shall expand the employment facilitation offering for OFWs in the public,  
4 private, and development sectors based on progressive eligibility or qualification criteria,  
5 in partnership with the relevant national government agencies, the Private Sector  
6 Advisory Council, industry or professional associations, and other stakeholders.  
7  
8 (c) Civil Service Eligibility. The CSC shall formulate guidelines to grant appropriate civil  
9 service eligibility to non-civil service qualified OFWs, based on the education, training,  
10 and experience they acquired while living or working overseas.  
11  
12 (d) Skills and Academic Recognition. The Technical Education and Skills Development  
13 Authority (TESDA) and the CHED shall provide the necessary rules and regulations to  
14 grant pertinent national certification or appropriate degree diploma(s), respectively,  
15 recognizing the education, training, and experience OFWs acquired while living or  
16 working overseas.  
17

18 *SEC. 6. Initiation of Reintegration Process.* – The reintegration process for concerned OFWs  
19 shall be initiated by the relevant Migrant Workers Offices (MWOs) six (6) months before the  
20 intended return of the OFW to the Philippines. This process shall commence by providing access to  
21 four (4) paths for reintegration, namely:  
22

- 23 (a) Education, upskilling/reskilling/retooling/micro-credentialing (Kaalaman);  
24 (b) Psychosocial and social support services (Kalinga);  
25 (c) Entrepreneurship (Negosyo); and  
26 (d) Employment (Hanap-buhay).  
27

28 *SEC. 7. Returnee-OFWs Management Information System (ROMIS) and Reintegration*  
29 *Management System (RMS).* –  
30

- 31 (a) Establishment of ROMIS. The DMW shall establish and maintain the ROMIS, which  
32 shall serve as the primary information network and database containing information on  
33 the educational attainment, skill levels, and experience of all returning OFWs. The  
34 ROMIS shall function as a referral system to the private sector and government  
35 institutions to facilitate job matching, possible hiring, and/or skills upgrading.  
36  
37 (b) Development and Function of RMS. Within the ROMIS framework, the DMW shall  
38 finalize the development and operationalization of the RMS. The RMS shall be an online  
39 system and platform designed to streamline the reintegration process for returnee-OFWs.  
40 It shall provide access to a range of services, including financial literacy programs,  
41 livelihood training, and access to funding opportunities.  
42  
43 (c) System Objectives. Both the ROMIS and the RMS shall facilitate effective connections  
44 with government and private sector partners to ensure a smooth transition for returnee-  
45 OFWs back into local employment or entrepreneurship. The RMS shall further aim to  
46 provide efficient support for the holistic needs of returnee-OFWs and their families,  
47 thereby seeking to empower them to reintegrate successfully and continue contributing  
48 to national development.  
49

50 *SEC. 8. Institutional Framework for Reintegration.* –  
51

1 (a) Lead Agency. The DMW shall, in coordination with the OWWA and the National  
2 Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), serve as the primary agency responsible for the  
3 implementation of the full-cycle reintegration program.  
4

5 (b) Role of the NRCO. The NRCO shall function as the central coordination mechanism to:  
6 (1) Enhance participation of all stakeholders to achieve transformative, effective, and  
7 efficient delivery of services to returnee-OFWs and their families; and (2) Ensure the  
8 harmonized and synergized implementation of the full-cycle national reintegration policy  
9 and program.  
10

11 The NRCO shall design and institutionalize reintegration frameworks, strategies and  
12 standards that address the economic, social and psychological aspects of return, and shall  
13 lead the coordination of relevant government agencies, local government units, and  
14 partners from the private sector and civil society. Together with the OWWA, it shall  
15 implement reintegration programs and services in accordance with established plans,  
16 policies and guidelines. It shall maintain a centralized reintegration database, undertake  
17 policy and program research, and ensure that all reintegration initiatives are coherent,  
18 evidence-based, and aligned with national migration and development priorities.  
19

20 (c) Role of MWOs and OWWA Overseas Welfare Offices (OWOS). The MWOs together  
21 with the OWOS located abroad shall be strengthened to enable them to provide  
22 reintegration counseling and support services directly to OFWs onsite, including  
23 undocumented workers.  
24

25 SEC. 9. *Pre-Return and Reintegration Orientation Seminar (PRROS)*. – There shall be a  
26 PRROS to be offered by MWOs worldwide, similar in intent to pre-employment, pre-departure, and  
27 post-arrival orientation seminars, but concentrating on essential information for a returning OFW  
28 seeking to be reintegrated back into the Philippine economy and society.  
29

30 SEC. 10. *Business-Oriented Capacity-Building Training*. –  
31

32 (a) Provision of Training. The DOLE shall, in coordination with the DTI and the DA, provide  
33 Business-Oriented Capacity-Building Training for OFWs who are seeking to set up their  
34 businesses.  
35

36 (b) Training Focus Areas. The training shall focus on the following key areas: (1) Business  
37 conceptualization and the conduct of feasibility studies; (2) Registration and all other  
38 administrative matters related to creating one's own business; (3) Safe and sustainable  
39 business financing, incorporating the DMW's Financial Awareness Seminar-Small  
40 Business Management Training (FAS-SBMT), which promotes financial awareness and  
41 provides training for the development and management of small businesses; (4) Business  
42 promotion/advertising/marketing; and (5) Service/product delivery.  
43

44 (c) Enhancement of FAS-SBMT and Collaboration. The DMW's FAS-SBMT shall have  
45 strengthened program coordination and shall expand its offerings. Pursuant thereto, the  
46 DMW shall collaborate with concerned national government agencies and stakeholders  
47 to provide co-opportunities for entrepreneurship development, incubation, marketing, and  
48 mentoring.  
49

50 (d) DA Agricultural Credit Policy Council Support. The DA's ACPC shall offer capacity-  
51 building support alongside its credit programs. The DA and its ACPC shall provide  
52 services specifically designed for those engaged in the agri-fishery sector. This support

1 shall be made available to returnee-OFWs applying for ACPC's loan programs to assist  
2 them in acquiring the necessary skills and improving their business management.  
3

4 (e) Small Business Corporation (SB Corp). The SB Corp, a government-owned and  
5 controlled corporation operating under the Department of Trade and Industry, shall  
6 support reintegration efforts by providing capacity-building programs and access to credit  
7 facilities.  
8

9 (f) Mentorship Facilitation. The training provided under this Section shall also serve as a  
10 means by which returnee-OFWs are assisted in finding and connecting with mentors in  
11 the business sector, particularly those established in the industry the returnee-OFW  
12 intends to enter.  
13

14 (g) Prioritization. Prioritization for participation in the training and related support under this  
15 Section shall be given to those returnee-OFWs with no background in putting together  
16 and running/operating their own businesses, particularly those intending to establish a  
17 single proprietorship and having no seasoned business partners.  
18

19 SEC. 11. *Components of Reintegration Services.* – Reintegration services shall include the  
20 following components provided at relevant stages of the migration cycle:  
21

22 (a) Pre-Departure:

- 23 (1) Mandatory pre-departure orientation seminars covering available reintegration  
24 services and support for undocumented OFWs;
- 25 (2) Financial literacy training focused on management of earnings and future  
26 planning; and
- 27 (3) Family counseling on coping mechanisms for separation and eventual  
28 reunification.  
29

30 (b) On-Site Support:

- 31 (1) Provision of accessible support services through MWOs for OFWs in distress,  
32 including undocumented workers;
- 33 (2) Opportunities for skills development and training designed to enhance  
34 employability upon return; and
- 35 (3) Establishment of mechanisms for addressing exploitation and abuse, ensuring  
36 access to legal and psychosocial support.  
37

38 (c) Upon Return:

- 39 (1) Provision of personalized reintegration counseling and case management to  
40 develop tailored reintegration plans;
- 41 (2) Delivery of economic reintegration assistance, including facilitation of job  
42 placement, entrepreneurship training, and access to financing;
- 43 (3) Facilitation of social reintegration support, covering access to housing,  
44 documentation, education, healthcare, and social protection schemes;
- 45 (4) Provision of psychosocial support services addressing mental health concerns  
46 and challenges from migration; and
- 47 (5) Grant of special attention to the needs of vulnerable OFWs, particularly victims  
48 of trafficking, persons with disabilities, and those with specific medical or  
49 psychosocial needs.  
50

51 SEC. 12. *Protection for Undocumented OFWs.* – No undocumented OFW shall be denied  
52 reintegration services due to their status. Mechanisms shall be established for the regularization of

1 undocumented OFWs' status upon return to facilitate access to services and benefits. Information  
2 dissemination campaigns shall inform undocumented OFWs of their rights and available  
3 reintegration support. A dedicated hotline and online platform shall be established for confidential  
4 assistance to undocumented OFWs.

5  
6 SEC. 13. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* – The DMW shall develop a monitoring and evaluation  
7 framework to assess the reintegration program's effectiveness and conduct regular impact  
8 assessments to ensure program responsiveness to OFWs' evolving needs.

9  
10 SEC. 14. *Dedicated Financing and Loan Programs.* –

11  
12 (a) Development and Provision. The DMW and the OWWA shall, in coordination with the  
13 Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the  
14 DA, particularly its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS) and ACPC,  
15 Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), and qualified Private Financial Institutions,  
16 develop and provide dedicated financing or loan programs.

17  
18 (b) Purpose and Terms. These programs shall facilitate the establishment, operation,  
19 sustainability, or expansion of enterprises and livelihood projects, including Micro-,  
20 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), owned by returnee-OFWs, under  
21 minimal and affordable terms and conditions.

22  
23 (c) Eligibility and Support. (1) The dedicated programs under this section shall primarily  
24 cater to returnee-OFWs with no existing enterprise or livelihood project. (2) Returnee-  
25 OFWs with an existing enterprise that is dismally performing shall also be eligible:  
26 *Provided*, That the DMW, OWWA, DOF, DBM, DA (through AMAS and ACPC), and  
27 GFIs shall provide financial and other support, including technical guidance, necessary to  
28 revitalize the undertaking. (3) Returnee-OFWs with existing enterprises deemed robust  
29 may be referred to the standing programs of the DTI for appropriate assistance.

30  
31 SEC. 15. *Program for Qualified OFWs to Teach in the Academe.* – The DMW shall, in  
32 coordination with the CHED and TESDA, provide a program to invite qualified and highly-skilled  
33 OFWs to teach in colleges/universities recognized by the CHED and/or in training centers accredited  
34 by the TESDA.

35  
36 SEC. 16. *Social Assistance Measures.* – The DMW shall, together with the OWWA, the  
37 Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the DA, include returnee-OFWs as  
38 beneficiaries in their respective social protection and other programs.

39  
40 The DMW and OWWA, through their regional offices, shall encourage community  
41 engagements for returnee-OFWs and their families.

42  
43 All reintegration programs and services, including social assistance measures under this Act,  
44 shall be guided by the principles mandated under Section 17 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11641,  
45 otherwise known as the "Department of Migrant Workers Act", ensuring a multi-dimensional  
46 reintegration program that effectively addresses the economic, social, psychosocial and cultural  
47 aspects of reintegration.

48  
49 The implementing rules and regulations of this Act shall contain detailed and specific  
50 provisions on social assistance and protection to ensure that more OFWs are included in the various  
51 social protection programs offered by the government, the private sector, and non-government  
52 organizations (NGOs).

1  
2 SEC. 17. *Right to Participate.* – Former OFWs who are to be reintegrated into the Philippine  
3 domestic economy shall, as much as practicable, participate in policy and decision-making processes  
4 affecting their rights and benefits under existing laws and under the provisions of this Act.  
5

6 SEC. 18. *Application of Anti-Age Discrimination Law.* –  
7

8 (a) Compliance Obligation. In the extension of services to former OFWs and in all matters  
9 concerning their local or domestic employment, all government agencies, GOCCs, and  
10 all private corporations, partnerships, sole-proprietorships, including NGOs and other  
11 kinds of private organizations, shall strictly observe and follow all provisions of R.A.  
12 10911, otherwise known as the "Anti-Age Discrimination in Employment Act".  
13

14 (b) Monitoring and Coordination. The DMW and the DOLE shall constantly coordinate to  
15 monitor the plight and situation of all former OFWs employed in local/domestic jobs to  
16 ensure full compliance with the aforementioned law.  
17

18 SEC. 19. *Psychosocial Support and Counseling.* – The DMW shall, together with OWWA  
19 and the DOH, facilitate psychosocial support and reintegration counselling for returnee-OFWs and  
20 their families.  
21

22 SEC. 20. *National Reintegration Network (NRN).* – The NRN shall be established through  
23 formal partnership agreements with relevant government and private partner agencies. It shall serve  
24 to strengthen and institutionalize collaborative efforts aimed at ensuring the effective delivery of  
25 reintegration programs and services. The NRN shall facilitate convenient and seamless access to such  
26 services through the creation of both Physical and Online One-Stop-Shops, wherein all relevant  
27 programs and services are integrated and made available on a unified platform. All government  
28 agencies and instrumentalities offering services to OFWs shall form part of the NRN.  
29

30 SEC. 21. *Creating/Upgrading Offices and Personnel.* – The DMW and other concerned  
31 government agencies, upon consultation with and approval of the DBM, shall create or upgrade the  
32 necessary offices and hire appropriate personnel to ensure the effective implementation of this Act.  
33

34 SEC. 22. *Non-diminution of Benefits.* – All rights, privileges and benefits previously enjoyed  
35 by returnee or reintegrated OFWs before the effectivity of this Act, including those set forth in R.A.  
36 8042, otherwise known as the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995”, as amended,  
37 R.A. 10801 or the “Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Act”, among other relevant laws,  
38 executive issuances, including pertinent Supreme Court decisions, shall continue to be recognized  
39 and shall not be diminished.  
40

41 SEC. 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DMW shall, together with the OWWA  
42 and the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), promulgate the necessary implementing  
43 rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act,  
44

45 The promulgation shall be made in coordination with the key government agencies mentioned  
46 in this Act, and in consultation with concerned GOCCs, especially those giving grants, extending  
47 loans, and providing technical assistance to MSMEs, and other relevant stakeholders in the private  
48 sector and NGOs.  
49

50 SEC. 24. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act  
51 shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned.  
52 Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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SEC. 25. *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. 26. *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. 27. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

**House of Representatives**  
**Committee Affairs Department**

FACT SHEET

**House Bill No. 11525**

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 4978, 7180, 11026,  
11130, 11132, 11136, and 11160)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED  
AND SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR  
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

*Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES JUDE A. ACIDRE, ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS, GERALDINE B. ROMAN, CRISPIN DIEGO “PING” D. REMULLA, MARISSA “DEL MAR” P. MAGSINO, LORDAN G. SUAN, MICHAEL M. MORDEN, BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR., SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, DANNY A. DOMINGO, KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR, FELIMON M. ESPARES, BONIFACIO L. BOSITA, AND RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL*

*Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS**  
Committee Chairperson: **REPRESENTATIVE JUDE A. ACIDRE***

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To implement a comprehensive, integrated, and sustainable reintegration program for returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), addressing economic, social, psychosocial, gender-responsive, and cultural dimensions, regardless of their documentation status.
- To ensure reintegration programs are mainstreamed throughout the migration cycle, promoting access to local employment, entrepreneurship, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, financial literacy, and the attainment of economic self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial well-being for returning OFWs and their families.

**KEY PROVISIONS:**

- Covers all returnee-OFWs (land-based, sea-based, documented, undocumented, repatriated, retired/contract-terminated) and their families, including those requiring targeted assistance (e.g., senior or solo-parent OFWs).
- Mandates regular job fairs for OFWs in private, government, and academic sectors; expands employment facilitation; grants civil service eligibility based on overseas experience; and provides skills and academic recognition through national certifications and diplomas.

- Directs the Migrant Workers Offices (MWOs) to initiate the reintegration process six months before return, providing access to four paths: Education or upskilling (Kaalaman), Psychosocial or social support (Kalinga), Entrepreneurship (Negosyo), and Employment (Hanap-buhay).
- Establishes central databases and online platforms for OFW information, job matching, skills upgrading, and streamlined access to services like financial literacy and livelihood training.
- Designates Department of Migrant Workers as the lead agency, with the National Reintegration Center for OFWs as the central coordination mechanism, and strengthens MWOs abroad to provide direct reintegration counseling and support.
- Provides training for OFWs intending to set up businesses, covering conceptualization, registration, financing, promotion, and mentorship facilitation.
- Details services provided at pre-departure (orientation, financial literacy, family counseling), on-site (distress support, skills development, protection against exploitation), and upon return (personalized counseling, economic and social reintegration, psychosocial support, special attention to vulnerable OFWs).
- Ensures no undocumented OFW is denied reintegration services, establishes mechanisms for status regularization upon return, and mandates information dissemination and confidential assistance hotlines/platforms.
- Mandates the development and provision of accessible and affordable financing or loan programs for OFW-owned enterprises and livelihood projects, with prioritization for new or underperforming ventures.
- Creates a program to invite qualified and highly-skilled OFWs to teach in colleges or universities recognized by the Commission on Higher Education and in training centers accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

#### **RELATED LAWS:**

- Republic Act No. 8042, or the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995”, as amended.
- Republic Act No. 10801, or the “Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Act.”
- Republic Act No. 11641, or the “Department of Migrant Workers Act.”