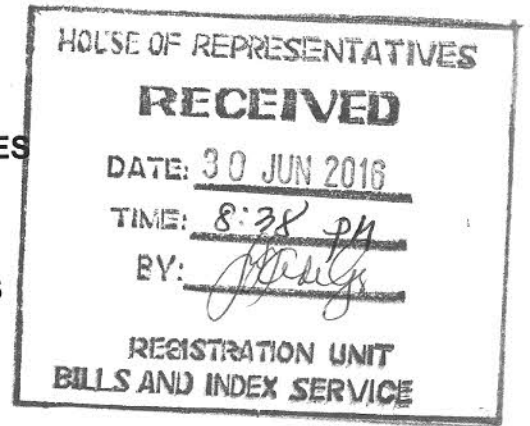


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 573



Introduced by **HONORABLE BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The October 2014 Philippine Statistics Authority's Labor Force Survey reports that there are 1.23 million unemployed youth or 14.2% of the total labor force without a job. The alarming figure is more than twice the national adult unemployment rate of 6.8%. This validates the Asian Development Bank (ADB) 2009 survey which concludes that youth in the Philippines experience a slow school-to-work transition. The survey reveals that, on average a college graduate finds a permanent job after two (2) years while for a high school graduate, it takes four (4) years. The job search period is even longer for youth who drop out of school. Of those high school graduates that find a job, less than half of them find work in the formal wage sector.

Moreover, the ADB survey identified a set of risk factors that affected youth school-to-work transition. Main risk factors included: (i) the low level of educational attainment (e.g., high school graduate only and high school dropouts), (ii) family income status, with youth from low income families having the most difficulty in the school-to-work transition because such families tend to have a lack of quality social networks, children tend to have insufficient life skills and job search skills necessary to successfully land a good job, and (iii) age and gender, such that young women are more at risk of not being in employment, education and training compared to young men.

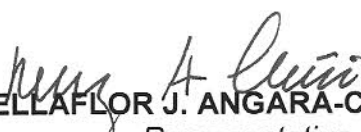
In May 2014, with funding support from the Government of Canada and technical assistance from the ADB, a project coined as "JobStart Philippines Program" was launched by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in four (4) localities *i.e.*, General Trias, Cavite; San Fernando, Pampanga; Taguig City, and Quezon City. JobStart is designed as a remedial program with the objective of assisting at-risk youth in improving their school-to-work transition and to increase their chances of integrating into productive employment. The pilot phase tested approaches and strategies that provide youth with enhanced career guidance services, life skills, and technical training with work experience at the establishment or company level. The pilot project included 3,200 program beneficiaries and the development of a model full-cycle employment facilitation services at the local level, benchmarking good practices from Kenya, Chile and the United States.

This bill aims to cascade the success of the JobStart program on a national scale and institutionalize it. Given adequate resources and support of the private sector, the implementation of this proposed policy measure will cover at least 70,000 JobStart program beneficiaries by 2020. The training and exposure in an actual work place will make the jobseeker ready to assume the job and more responsive to industry skills requirement. Further, Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs) will be able to offer an enhanced employment facilitation services and an improved local labor market information system.

Given the country's employment thrust to address the job-skills mismatch and facilitate the smooth transition of graduates and trainees to the work force, it is deemed imperative to institute reforms to modernize the PESOs and implement a nationwide youth

employment program that enhances the employability of jobseekers and assists their integration in the labor force.

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


BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

Introduced by HONORABLE BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF
JOBSTART PHILIPPINES PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THERETO,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**JobStart Act of 2015.**”
2

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to promote full employment
4 and equality of employment opportunities for all. The Philippines subscribes to the
5 International Labor Organization’s (ILO) Decent Work Agenda. As a signatory to ILO
6 Convention 88, the State promotes the establishment of Public Employment Services as the
7 primary institution at the local level that is responsible for implementing a variety of active
8 labor market programs including job search assistance, training, and placement for the
9 unemployed including young jobseekers.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following shall refer to:
12

- 13 a. **Establishment** – an enterprise or employer which may be a company, sole
14 proprietorship, corporation, or any other legal entity registered under relevant laws
15 that may provide venue for training and/or placement of JobStart trainee trainees.
16
- 17 b. **JobStart Trainees** – an eligible JobStart registrant who has been selected to
18 participate in the program.
19
- 20 c. **JobStart Graduate** – JobStart trainees who have completed all the program
21 services and undergone all stages of JobStart full-cycle employment facilitation
22 services.
23
- 24 d. **JobStart Technical Training** – the program phase where the JobStart trainee
25 undergoes a two-stage training: (1) technology-based theoretical instruction for up to
26 three (3) months in a lecture area and hands-on exercises in a laboratory and/or a
27 workshop within the premises of a technical training provider (either in a TESDA-
28 registered technical vocational institute (TVI) or in-house/establishment); and (2)
29 practical learning in a regular work environment in a company/establishment for up
30 to three (3) months, as determined by the latter.
31
- 32 e. **JobStart Unit** – the office established and managed by the Bureau of Local
33 Employment (BLE), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Office,
34 or Public Employment Service Office (PESO) to implement and oversee the JobStart
35 program.
36
- 37 f. **Training Allowance** – the amount which the JobStart trainee receives either from
38 the JobStart Unit or from the participating establishment for the duration of the life
39 skills and technical training period.

