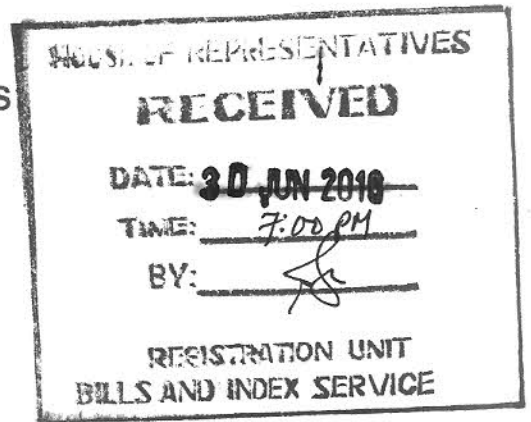


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

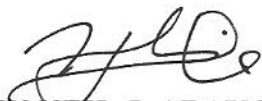
HOUSE BILL NO. 780



Introduced by: Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We brand our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) as modern day heroes. We should at least help them in supporting their loved ones here in the country during their times of sickness or incapacity to support. This measure was previously filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15th Congress. Passage of this Bill is earnestly sought now in the 17th Congress.


HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON III
Representative
Party-List AANGAT TAYO

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 780

Introduced by: Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

AN ACT
TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF ASSISTANCE AND INCENTIVES TO FAMILIES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO IN TIMES OF NEED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as “Assistance to OFW Family Act of 2016.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies. It is the policy of the State to protect the families of OFWs whenever for any of the reasons stated herein below, assistance may be required by them.

SECTION 3. Instances when assistance may be given. The following instances, which are not exclusive in character, shall be considered in giving assistance to families of OFWs or to the OFW himself or herself under this Act.

- a. Whenever the OFW has deprived the legitimate family or the common-law wife of any form of financial assistance for any reason;
- b. Whenever the OFW has left the legitimate family of the common-law wife without any form of financial assistance for any reason;
- c. Whenever the OFW has deprived the legitimate children of any form of financial assistance for any reason;
- d. In the absence of any of the following, the illegitimate children shall be entitled to avail of the assistance granted by the provision of this Act.

SECTION 4. Qualification for assistance to be given. The following qualification shall be imposed upon the applicants for assistance granted by this Act:

- a.) Families- for the legitimate family or the common-law wife of the OFW, there shall be required the following:
 - i. Status as legitimate family or common-law wife without any impediment to marry;
 - ii. The total household income shall not exceed sixty thousand pesos (P60,000.00) per annum subject to verification from the Bureau of Internal Revenue of such fact and the appropriate clearances from the employer;

b.) Children - for the legitimate or illegitimate child, the assistance shall be limited to the following qualified individuals:

- i. The child shall not exceed the age of majority provided for by law;
- ii. no sufficient means of income to support himself.

SECTION 5. Form of assistance. The assistance shall be in the following.

1. Livelihood opportunities for the families;
2. Scholarship grants to the children;
3. Such other forms assistance as may be provided for by law, Provided, that the number of children entitled to the assistance herein shall not exceed four (4).

SECTION 6. Livelihood assistance. The livelihood assistance as defined herein shall mean such assistance as may be sufficient to support the basic needs of the family herein, such assistance to be extended primarily to the family in most need of support. The livelihood assistance shall be provided for by the Department of Trade and Industry through the creation of a new division, the OFW Livelihood Assistance Division. Provided, that the implementation rules and regulations of this act shall be formulated by the Department of Trade and Industry.

SECTION 7. Scholarship grants. The scholarship grants shall be extended to children qualified according, to the provisions of this Act. Provided, that the scholarship grants shall extend to the tertiary level of education but not to post-graduate studies; Provided, further, that the Department of Education, shall be responsible for the grant of such benefits accordingly; Provided, finally, that even upon reaching the age of majority, the child previously entitled to the benefits of this Act shall be extended assistance until the completion of the education, subject to the Implementing Rules and Regulations to be formulated by the Department of Education.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. – The sum of fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) necessary for the initial operating expenses of the assistance is hereby charged to the appropriations authorized for the OFW Assistance Fund. Thereafter, the sum necessary for the continued operation and maintenance shall be included in the annual budget of the Office of the President.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act or any part hereof be declared unconstitutional or invalid the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or part thereof, which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.