

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1825



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, without doubt, is one of the top sending countries when it comes to migrant workers. Time and again, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have proven to be at par with international standards in terms of employment skills, behavior and attitude. According to the latest data of the Philippine Statistics Authority, the number of OFWs who work abroad, at anytime during the period April to September 2016, is estimated at 2.2 million.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) is the government agency given the mandate to promote and protect the welfare and interest of the OFWs, in general, and its members in particular. OWWA is committed to the continual improvement in its programs and services, systems and procedures as well as the continuous build-up of the fund to ensure its viability for OFW needs.

However, the presence of OWWA offices especially in the provinces where OFWs and OFW-families are found is wanting. In the Province of Bohol, OFWs rely on the OWWA Regional Office stationed in Cebu City. Being a multiple island region, delivery of services can, at times, be a challenge especially to OFWs in distress.

The establishment of an OWWA satellite office to be situated in the capital city of Tagbilaran in Bohol would ensure the best promotion and protection of growing OFW-members and OFW-families in the province; expedite communication and delivery of services; decongest the loads in the OWWA regional office in Cebu and the central office in Manila; and boost the President's program of improving government services in the countryside.

Considered as modern-day heroes, our OFWs deserve the services that give value to the sacrifices they make for their families and the country.

For the above considerations, the passage of this law is earnestly sought.


REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION
(OWWA) SATELLITE OFFICE IN THE CITY OF TAGBILARAN, PROVINCE
OF BOHOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Establishment. – There shall be a satellite office of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) in the City of Tagbilaran, Province of Bohol, for the purpose of protecting the welfare of the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall initially come from the savings of the OWWA. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the effective operation and maintenance of said office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Administrator of OWWA shall formulate and issue the necessary guidelines for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,