

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 477

08 NOV 2017

Submitted by the Committees on Overseas Workers Affairs on _____

Re : HOUSE BILL NO. 6649

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1072 and 1330

Sponsor : Representative Jesulito "Jess" A. Manalo

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs to which were referred:

House Bill No. 1072, introduced by Rep. Scott Davies S. Lanete, entitled:

AN ACT MANDATING EVERY FILIPINO WORKER BOUND FOR DEPLOYMENT TO UNDERGO FINANCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SEMINARS, MAKING IT A REQUIREMENT FOR DEPLOYMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

House Bill No. 1330, introduced by Rep. Weslie T. Gatchalian, entitled:

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED, FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAM OF THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

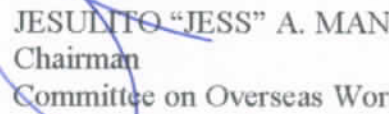
has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 6649, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS TO INCLUDE FINANCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1072 and 1330 with Representatives Scott Davies S. Lanete, Weslie T. Gatchalian, Jesulito "Jess" A. Manalo, Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Sabiniano S. Canama, Tom S. Villarín, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Aniceto "John" D. Bertiz III, Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr., Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas,

Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Angelina "Helen" DL Tan, Estrellita B. Suansing, Raul V. Del Mar, Rodel M. Batocabe, Jose Antonio "K.J." R. Sy-Alvarado, Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II, Winston "Winnie" Castelo, Micaela S. Violago, Ron P. Salo, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Sharon S. Garin and Rene L. Relampagos as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



JESULITO "JESS" A. MANALO
Chairman
Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **6649**

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 1072 and 1330)

Introduced by Representatives Scott Davies S. Lanete, Weslie T. Gatchalian, Jesulito "Jess" A. Manalo, Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Sabiniano S. Canama, Tom S. Villarín, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Aniceto "John" D. Bertiz III, Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr., Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Angelina "Helen" DL Tan, Estrellita B. Suansing, Raul V. Del Mar, Rodel M. Batocabe, Jose Antonio "K.J." R. Sy-Alvarado, Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II, Winston "Winnie" Castelo, Micaela S. Violago, Ron P. Salo, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Sharon S. Garin and Rene L. Relampagos

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS TO INCLUDE FINANCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995

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

SECTION 1. A new paragraph shall be added after the second paragraph of Sub-paragraph b.1, Section 23 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, to read as follows:

"Section. 23. *Role of Government Agencies.* - x x x

(a) x x x

(b) x x x

(b.1) *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.* - The Administration shall regulate private sector participation in the recruitment and overseas placement of workers by setting up a licensing and registration system. It shall also formulate and implement, in coordination with appropriate entities concerned, when necessary, a system for promoting and monitoring the overseas employment of Filipino workers taking into consideration their welfare and the domestic manpower requirements. It shall be responsible for the regulation and management of overseas employment from the pre-employment stage, securing the best possible employment terms and conditions for overseas Filipino workers, and taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable sectors and the peculiarities of sea-based and

1 land-based workers. in appropriate cases, the administration shall allow
2 the lifting of suspension of erring recruitment/manning agencies upon
3 the payment of fine of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) for every
4 month of suspension.
5

6 In addition to its powers and functions, the administration shall inform
7 migrant workers not only of their rights as workers but also of their
8 rights as human beings, instruct and guide the workers how to assert
9 their rights and provide the available mechanism to redress violation of
10 their rights. It shall also be responsible for the implementation, in
11 partnership with other law-enforcement agencies, of an intensified
12 program against illegal recruitment activities. For this purpose, the
13 POEA shall provide comprehensive Pre-Employment Orientation
14 Seminars (PEOS) that will discuss topics such as prevention of illegal
15 recruitment and gender-sensitivity.
16

17 "THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ALSO CONDUCT FREE
18 COMPREHENSIVE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION
19 SEMINARS (PDOS) TO ALL OVERSEAS WORKERS, IN
20 COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
21 EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE
22 ADMINISTRATION (OWWA), THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
23 AFFAIRS (DFA), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THE
24 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
25 (DSWD), THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) AND THE
26 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), WITH THE
27 FOLLOWING CURRICULUM:
28

- 29 1) TERMS OF DEPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT
30 CONTRACTS INCLUDING RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF
31 MIGRANTS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS;
- 32 2) CRIMINAL AND LABOR LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF
33 DESTINATION COUNTRIES;
- 34 3) FINANCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION;
- 35 4) ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES FOR COUNTRY
36 OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES;
- 37 5) ROLE OF PHILIPPINE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND
38 PROCEDURES ON HOW TO ACCESS ASSISTANCE;
- 39 6) BASIC LANGUAGE COURSE OF DESTINATION
40 COUNTRIES;
- 41 7) ISSUES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING;
- 42 8) CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS AWARENESS OF
43 DESTINATION COUNTRIES;
- 44 9) PROCEDURE FOR FILING INSURANCE CLAIMS;
- 45 10) BANKING AND REMITTANCE CHANNELS;
- 46 11) SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS;
- 47 12) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ISSUES;
- 48 13) HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER SENSITIVITY;
- 49 14) MENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES;

1 15) REINTEGRATION FOR RETURNING AND DEPORTED
2 OFWS; AND
3 16) FAMILY VALUES
4

5 *PROVIDED*, THAT AN OFW, WHOSE CONTRACT WAS
6 RENEWED, OR WAS RE-HIRED IN THE SAME COUNTRY
7 SHALL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR
8 UNLESS A NEW CURRICULUM IS INTRODUCED FOR WHICH
9 THE SAID OFW SHALL ATTEND THE NEW COURSE:
10 *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE SEMINAR SHALL BE
11 CONDUCTED BY PROFESSIONALS AND ACCREDITED
12 INSTRUCTORS FOR SPECIFIC OCCUPATIONS, EXPERIENCE
13 AND DESTINATIONS.”
14

15 x x x
16

17 SECTION 2. The POEA, in coordination with the DOLE, OWWA, DFA, DOH, DSWD, DOF
18 and the DTI, shall, within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, issue the necessary
19 rules and regulations for its effective implementation.
20

21 SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other
22 provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
23

24 SECTION 4. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction,
25 administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, any provision of this
26 Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
27

28 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
29 Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
30

31 Approved,

House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 6649

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE
PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION SEMINAR PROGRAM
FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

*Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, WESLIE T.
GATCHALIAN, JESULITO "JESS" A. MANALO*

*Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS
Committee Chairperson: REPRESENTATIVE JESULITO A. MANALO*

OBJECTIVE:

- To equip overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) with vital and critical information and knowledge that will help ensure their safety and well being while employed overseas and their financial stability upon their return.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to conduct free comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars (PDOS) to all departing overseas workers, in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).
- Provides for the following subject matters as part of the curriculum of the PDOS:
 - a. Terms of deployment and employment contracts including rights and obligations of migrants and their employers;
 - b. Criminal and labor laws and regulations of destination countries;
 - c. Financial and entrepreneurial education;
 - d. Arrival and departure procedures for country of origin and destination countries;
 - e. Role of Philippine diplomatic missions and procedures on how to access assistance;
 - f. Basic language course of destination countries;
 - g. Issues on human rights and drug trafficking;
 - h. Cultural and religious awareness of destination countries;

- i. Procedure for filing insurance claims;
- j. Banking and remittance channels;
- k. Social security benefits;
- l. Occupational safety and health issues;
- m. Human rights and gender sensitivity;
- n. Mental and psychological issues;
- o. Reintegration for returning and deported OFWs; and
- p. Family values.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 8042, or the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995", as amended by Republic Act No. 10022
- Republic Act No. 10801, or the "Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Act"