

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1826**



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

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**


The exodus of migrant workers, due to limited employment opportunities in the country, has opened doors for capitalizing and scheming companies to take advantage of the vulnerability of Filipinos seeking employment abroad. Illegal recruitment has become a commonplace especially in the provinces. And when some of our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) finally leave the country, they become an easy prey to exploitation and abuse including contract violations, sexual harassment, violence and discrimination.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) is the main arm of the government mandated to undertake a systematic program of promoting and monitoring the overseas employment of Filipino workers, including the regulation of private sector participation in the recruitment and overseas placement of workers, as well as protect their rights to fair and equitable employment practices.

The main objective of this bill is the establishment of a POEA satellite office to be situated in Tagbilaran City, the capital of Bohol to address the continuing problem of illegal recruitment in the province as well as to ensure that contractual terms and conditions work to the best benefit of the OFW. This satellite office will also make it expedient for the Boholanos to secure necessary clearance, permits and other documents for their employment overseas, check on the legality of the recruiting agency, decongest the regional office in Cebu City and improve the promotion and protection of prospective and presently employed OFWs.

The cliché, “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime,” when referring to workers, is passé. The new thrust in today’s seamless world, with respect to migrant workers, is, “It’s not only teaching them to fish but making sure that they are safe when fishing.”

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

  
**REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO**

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**“AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT  
ADMINISTRATION (POEA) 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 Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in the City of Tagbilaran, Province of Bohol.

**SECTION 2. Appropriation** – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall initially come from the savings of the POEA. 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 the POEA 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,