

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



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5091**

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Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado Jr.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) have a great impact on the nation's economic growth. The Philippine Statistics Authority estimates the number of OFWs working abroad between April and September 2018 to be at 2.3 million, providing a remittance of 235.9 billion pesos for the same period. Just as importantly, OFWs bolster and improve the lives of their families back here in the Philippines, and for that they are regarded as modern-day heroes.

But our OFWs also face the challenge of keeping an edge in today's highly competitive global markets. While the skills and knowledge they possess might make them desirable and competent workers around the world, continued learning and training should be made available to them in the pursuit of professional growth and improvement.

It is essential that the State should provide avenues and access to quality higher education and skills training, whether online or geographic-based learning made possible through the Philippine embassies and consulate offices abroad.

This Act seeks to provide opportunities and access to quality education, whether in nature of college, graduate studies or skills training to Overseas Filipino Workers, as well as their dependents living with them abroad.

  
**GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS ABROAD**  
**ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "OFW Higher Education and Skills Training Act."

SEC. 2. All Philippine embassies and consulate offices abroad are hereby mandated to work with Philippine-based academic degree-granting institutions, preferably with online class offerings, duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and/or technical vocation institutions (TVIs) duly recognized by the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) to make available courses and/or program offerings, whether degree or short courses, which can be made available to OFWs and/or their dependents abroad, within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

SEC. 3. For such purpose, our existing embassies and consulates abroad shall be used as venues for the provision of higher education programs, whether for college or graduate studies, or for skills training. Also, the existing personnel of said embassies and consulates may also be tapped as instructors for the said programs.

SEC. 4. Participating schools who send their faculty members from the Philippines to teach in the said embassies and consulates shall receive a reasonable subsidy from the government for said teachers' travel and lodging expenses, the amount of which shall be decided on a case-to-case basis.

SEC. 5. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA), shall jointly formulate and plan the successful implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. All laws, orders, issuance rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.