



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 631

introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE LOREN B. LEGARDA

AN ACT

FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8759, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE ACT OF 1999, AS AMENDED, TO INCLUDE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE SCOPE OF THE LAW, TO RENAME THE PRESENT PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE (PESO) INTO THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP OFFICE (PEESO), AND TO ESTABLISH THE BARANGAY EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP OFFICES (BEESO) NATIONWIDE, DEFINING ITS ROLE WITHIN THE EXISTING NETWORK, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to provide adequate and quality employment and to promote equality of employment opportunities for all Filipinos. In fact, the trend of employment, unemployment and underemployment rates is one of the issues closely watched over by government economic managers, since employment is one of the main drivers of economic growth and progress. Furthermore, the 1987 Constitution likewise recognizes the important role of entrepreneurship in achieving economic growth.

It was shown in the report posted by the Philippine Statistics Authority that in April 2018, there was a 1.6 percentage point increase in employment rate and a 0.2 percentage point decline in the unemployment rate, while a 0.9 percentage increase in the underemployment rate relative to the rates in 2017. Unfortunately, the

Philippines has been consistently identified among Southeast Asian countries with the highest rates of unemployment and underemployment rates.

Thus, this bill seeks to further promote entrepreneurship by including it in the coverage of the current Public Employment Service Office (PESO) law. It shall rename the office to the Public Employment and Entrepreneurship Office (PEESO), and shall create the Barangay Employment and Entrepreneurship Service Office (BEESO) which shall provide a more efficient system that would facilitate and regulate the labor market by bridging the gap between the job seekers and employers. This measure further aims to offer employment and entrepreneurship opportunities tailored and suited to each job seeker through various trainings and consultations. Finally, this bill intends to not only educate the Filipino job seekers on the programs and services of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) but also on the importance of entrepreneurship.



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

1 SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8759, otherwise known as the
2 'Public Employment Service Office Act of 1999", as amended by Republic Act No.
3 10691, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

4 "SEC. 3. *Establishment of the Public Employment AND*
5 *ENTREPRENEURSHIP Service Office and THE BARANGAY*
6 *EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP OFFICE.* – To carry out
7 the above declared policy, there shall be established in all provinces,
8 cities, and municipalities a Public Employment AND
9 ENTREPRENEURSHIP Service Office, hereinafter referred to as
10 'PEESO'.

1 TO SUPPORT THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PEESO, A
2 BARANGAY EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP OFFICE,
3 HEREIN REFERRED TO AS 'BESO', SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN
4 ALL BARANGAYS NATIONWIDE. THE BESO SHALL EXTEND THE
5 REACH OF THE MUNICIPAL PEESO TO THE RURAL AREAS WHERE
6 THE BULK OF EMPLOYMENT MODE IS NOT WAGE-BASED BUT
7 BASED ON SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND AVAILMENT OF LIVELIHOOD
8 OPPORTUNITIES. THE CREATION OF THE BESO SEEKS TO
9 HELP IMPROVE THE ACCESS OF THE RURAL WORKFORCE TO
10 EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERVICES.

11 THE PEESO AND THE BESO shall be operated and maintained
12 by local government units (LGUs). The PEESOs AND THE BESOS
13 shall be linked to the regional offices of the Department of Labor and
14 Employment (DOLE) for coordination and technical supervision, and to
15 the DOLE central office, to constitute the national public employment
16 AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP service network.

17 The PEESO OR BESO, AS THE CASE MAY BE, shall be under
18 the office of the governor, city, municipal mayor and barangay chairman.
19 The PEESO OR BESO, AS THE CASE MAY BE, shall be initially
20 organized by and composed of a PEESO OR BESO manager and may
21 be assisted by a labor and employment officer (LEO) as may be
22 determined by the LGU.

23 Upon the request of accredited nongovernment organizations
24 (NGOs) or educational institutions (EIs), the DOLE may enter into a
25 memorandum of agreement for the NGO and EI to establish, operate

1 and maintain a PEESO AND BEESO and a job placement office,
2 respectively.

3 To harmonize the provision of employment AND
4 ENTREPRENEURSHIP services in a given territorial jurisdiction, the
5 PEESO AND BEESO at the NGOs and the job placement office in Els
6 shall coordinate their activities with the appropriate LGU PEESO OR
7 BEESO, AS THE CASE MAYBE."

8 SECTION 2. Section 4 of RA 8759, as amended by RA 10691, is hereby
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "SEC. 4. *Objectives of the PEESO AND BEESO.* - In general, the
11 PEESO AND BEESO shall ensure the prompt, timely and efficient
12 delivery of employment AND ENTREPRENEURIAL services and
13 provision of information on the other DOLE programs.

14 Specifically, the PEESO/BEESO shall:

15 (a) Provide a venue where people could explore simultaneously
16 various wage employment AND ENTREPRENEURIAL option
17 and actually seek assistance they prefer;

18 (b) Serve as referral and information center for the various services
19 and programs of DOLE and other government agencies present
20 in the area;

21 (c) Provide clients with adequate information on
22 ENTREPRENEURSHIP, employment and labor market situation
23 in the area;

24 (d) Network with other PEESOs AND BEESOs within the region on
25 employment for job exchange purposes[.] AND WITH OTHER
26 GOVERNMENT, NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIE AS WELL AS

1 WITH THE PRIVATE AND BUSINESS SECTORS FOR
2 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL
3 OPPORTUNITIES."

4 SECTION 3. Section 5 of RA 8759, as amended by RA 10691, is hereby further
5 amended to read as follows:

6 *"SEC. 5. Functions of the PEESO AND BEESO.* The PEESO
7 and BEESO shall have the following functions:

8 (a) Encourage employers to submit to the PEESO AND BEESO on
9 a regular basis a list of job vacancies in their respective
10 establishments in order to facilitate the exchange of labor market
11 information between job seekers and employers by providing
12 employment information services to job seekers, both for local
13 and overseas employment, and recruitment assistance to
14 employers;

15 (b) Develop and administer testing and evaluation instruments for
16 effective job selection, training and counselling;

17 (c) SERVE AS VENUE FOR CONVERGENCE BY THE
18 APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO [P]provide persons with
19 [qualities] ENTREPRENEURSHIP ENHANCEMENT
20 INTERVENTIONS, access to the various livelihood and self-
21 employment and information programs offered by both
22 government and non-government organizations at the provincial,
23 city, municipal and barangay levels by undertaking referrals for
24 such program;

1 (d) Undertake employability enhancement trainings or seminars for
2 job seekers, as well as those who would like to change career or
3 enhance their employability;

4 (e) Provide employment or occupational counselling, career
5 guidance, mass motivation and values development activities;

6 (f) Conduct pre-employment counselling and orientation to
7 prospective local and, most especially, overseas workers;

8 (g) Provide reintegration assistance services to returning Filipino
9 migrant workers;

10 (h) Prepare and submit to the local sanggunian an annual
11 employment FACILITATION plan and budget including other
12 regular funding sources and budgetary support of the PEESO
13 AND THE BEESO; [and]

14 (I) REFER JOB APPLICANTS WHO MAY NEED FURTHER
15 TRAINING OR RETRAINING TO THE TECHNICAL
16 EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
17 (TESDA) COMMUNITY TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT
18 COORDINATOR (CTEC) AND OTHER TRAINING OR
19 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; AND,

20 “[(i)] (J) Perform such functions as to fully carry out the objectives of
21 this Act.”

22 SECTION 4. Section 6 of RA 8759, as amended by RA 10691, is hereby further
23 amended to read as follows:

24 “SEC. 6. *Other Services of the PEESO AND BEESO.* – In addition
25 to the functions enumerated in the preceding section, THE PROVINCIAL
26 PEESO SHALL CONDUCT PERIODIC JOB CLEARANCE MEETINGS

1 WITH ALL THE MUNICIPAL AND CITY PEESOS WITHIN ITS AREA
2 OF JURISDICTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELIMINATING
3 DUPLICATIONS IN ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTING TO THE DOLE
4 AND THE LGUS. THE MUNICIPAL PEESO SHALL LIKEWISE
5 EXERCISE THE ABOVE FUNCTION IN RELATION TO THE BEESOS.
6 MOREOVER, every PEESO AND BEESO shall undertake holistic
7 strategies, programs and activities to transform the PEESO AND
8 BEESO into a modern public employment AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
9 service intermediary that provides multi-dimensional employment and
10 entrepreneurship facilitation services."

11 SECTION 5. Section 7 of RA 8759, as amended by RA 10691, is hereby further
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "SEC. 7. *Role of the DOLE and the LGUs.* – The LGUs, in
14 coordination with the DOLE, shall establish the PEESO AND BEESO.

15 It shall be the responsibility of the DOLE to:

- 16 (a) Provide technical supervision, coordination and capacity-building
17 to the PEESO AND BEESO;
- 18 (b) Establish and maintain aN UPDATED computerized human
19 resource and job registries to facilitate the provision and
20 packaging of employment assistance to PEESO AND BEESO
21 clients and the setting-up of intra- and inter[regional] -
22 GEOGRAPHICAL job clearance systems as part of the overall
23 employment network;
- 24 (c) Provide technical assistance and allied support services to the
25 PEESO AND BEESO including, but not limited to, the training of

1 PEESO AND BEESO personnel in the various aspects of
2 employment AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP facilitation functions;

3 (d) Set standards for the establishment and operation of the PEESO
4 AND BEESO office, and qualification standards for the PEESO
5 AND BEESO personnel;

6 (e) Extend other packages of employment AND
7 ENTREPRENEURSHIP services to the LGU, NGO or EI
8 concerned, including the conduct of job fairs, career development
9 seminars, ENTREPRENEURSHIP INTERVENTIONS and other
10 activities; and

11 (f) Monitor, assess, and evaluate the performance of the PEESO
12 AND BEESO, including the job placement offices in EIs.

13 For their part, persons who are seeking employment, particularly
14 the unemployed, shall register at the PEESO/BEESO for employment
15 AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP facilitation assistance. The
16 establishments, on the other hand, shall submit their job vacancies as
17 well as applicants hired to the PEESO AND BEESO to ensure the
18 availability of accurate information on supply and demand situation for
19 various OCCUPATIONS AS WELL as skills in the labor market.

20 The LGU shall establish a monitoring system wherein
21 establishments operating in the locality shall report the following relevant
22 labor market information to the concerned office of the LGU:

- 23 (a) Present number and nature of jobs[;], SELF-EMPLOYMENT,
24 LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES; and,
- 25 (b) Projection of jobs that the establishment will provide or offer in the
26 next five (5) years;

1 PROVIDED THAT, [T]the information shall be submitted to the
2 PEESO AND BEESO for job matching and to EIs for career guidance of
3 the students.

4 PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, [I]it shall be the responsibility of
5 the concerned LGU to:

- 6 (i) Operate and maintain the PEESO AND BEESO;
- 7 (ii) Ensure compliance with the operational standards set by the
8 DOLE;
- 9 (iii) Extend such assistance and services as may be necessary in the
10 promotion of employment AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP within
11 the area of jurisdiction; and,
- 12 (iv) Submit to the DOLE periodic: performance and accomplishment
13 reports."

14 SECTION 6. Section 8 of RA 8759, as amended by RA 10691, is hereby amended to
15 read as follows:

16 SEC. 8. *Administration of the PEESO AND BEESO Program.* -

17 The DOLE shall be primarily responsible for the administration of the
18 PEESO AND BEESO Program through its Bureau of Local Employment,
19 as well as its regional offices throughout the country. The Secretary of
20 Labor and Employment, in coordination with the Department of the
21 Interior and Local Government and in consultation with the presidents of
22 the various local government leagues, namely the League of Provinces,
23 the League of Cities, the League of Municipalities and the League of
24 Barangays, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
25 TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND
26 TECHNOLOGY, AND SUCH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND

1 INSTRUMENTALITIES WHICH OFFER PROGRAMS ON
2 EMPLOYMENT, LIVELIHOOD, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, shall
3 accordingly promulgate, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this
4 Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation
5 of the [Program] ACT."

6 SECTION 7. Section 9 of RA 8759, as amended by RA 10691, is hereby further
7 amended to read as follows:

8 “SEC. 9. *Funding*. – The funding for the operation and
9 maintenance of the PEESO AND BEESO shall be provided by the LGU
10 from its internal revenue allotment and other internally generated income
11 of the LGU concerned. Likewise, the operation and maintenance of the
12 NGO PEESO AND BEESO and job placement offices of Els shall be
13 charged against their internally generated income.

14 Funds for the provision of technical assistance, training and
15 supervision of the PESO shall be included in the budget of the DOLE in
16 the annual General Appropriations Act.

17 The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act
18 shall be included by the Department of Budget and Management in the
19 annual General Appropriations Act.”

20 SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – The Secretary of Labor and
21 Employment shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
22 implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

23 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause*. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this
24 Act or any part thereof, or the application of such section, provision or portion is
25 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder thereof shall not be affected by such
26 declaration.

1 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
2 rules and regulations or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of
3 this Act, are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

4 SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from the
5 date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
6 circulation.

7 Approved,