

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 6613

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) first emerged in Wuhan, Hubei, China, in December 2019. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a pandemic. As of 11 March 2020, over 126,000 cases have been confirmed in more than 110 countries and territories, with major outbreaks in mainland China, Italy, South Korea, and Iran. More than 4,600 have died from the disease and 67,000 have recovered.

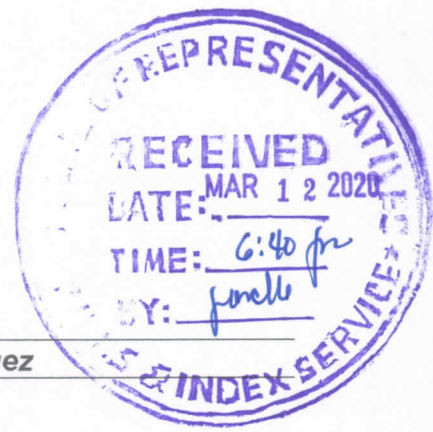
In the Philippines, the first case of COVID-19, confirmed on January 30, 2020, was a 38-year old woman who arrived from Wuhan. Two days later, the Philippines recorded the first death outside China. As of March 11, 2020, there are already 49 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with hundreds of possible cases where people are being investigated or are under quarantine.

Aside from the health implications, COVID-19 has also affected business and jobs.

Philippine Airlines (PAL) has laid off 300 workers as part of a business restructuring plan to manage losses sustained from travel restrictions to coronavirus-stricken destinations. At least another 300 workers lost their jobs since February as a result of COVID-19 affecting the tourism sector. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has also stated that 66 firms either temporarily closed down or implemented flexible arrangements for workers, mostly in Central Luzon and three other regions known for tourism sites. Further, said 47 companies and/or factories with 4,416 workers had implemented flexible work arrangements, including shorter hours, reduced working days or carrying out forced leaves. DOLE also stated that the job losses in the tourism sector due to COVID-19 may be between 30,000 and 60,000 if the outbreak extended until June.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ



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AN ACT

APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF THREE BILLION PESOS TO FUND AN EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON THE EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

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

SECTION 1. The Department of Labor and Employment is hereby mandated to formulate and implement an Emergency Employment Program for those employees laid-off from work because of COVID-19.

SECTION 2. The amount of Three Billion Pesos (Php 3,000,000,000) is hereby appropriated to the Department of Labor and Employment to fund said Emergency Employment Program for those employees laid-off from work because of COVID-19.

SECTION 3. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in English or Filipino in the official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved,