

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5167



Introduced by
Honorable Cristal L. Bagatsing

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING "OFW FAMILY HELP DESKS" IN ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

"The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development."

The family of the OFW, however, weakens when their parents were in abroad whose real intention is to insure support and sustenance of their families.

Thus, this bill seeks to remedy the situation of such family by requiring heads of local government units to create and establish OFW Family Help Desks addressing the concerns of families of OFW.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. CRISTAL L. BAGATSING

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "OFW Family Help Desk Act."

Section 2. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all families of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), whether land-based, sea-based, documented or undocumented.

Section 3. *Creation of OFW Family Help Desks.* - There is hereby created an OFW Family Help Desks in the offices of all Provincial Governors, City Mayors and Municipal Mayors. These offices shall attend to and provide assistance to the families of Overseas Filipino Workers who are residents within their respective territorial jurisdictions, to address the concerns or problems in relation to employment of the OFW, and business and livelihood opportunities of OFW family.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the (DILG) Department of Interior and Local Government in consultation with the leagues of Provincial Governors, the City Mayors, and the Municipal Mayors, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and other concerned agencies, formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,