

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

SENATE

S. No. 2515

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The tradition of having close family ties among Filipinos makes separation of Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) with their families, hard to sustain.

This could probably explain why the bulk of outgoing mails from the country goes to Filipino OCW-rich countries like Riyadh and Jeddah. As per official records of the Central Mail Exchange Center of the Philippine Postal Corporation (Philpost), the total volume of outgoing mails bound for Middle East alone reached to an average of at least 5 million mails a year.

The government has always supported the deployment of OCWs in recognition of their contribution to the country as major dollar earners. OCWs Dollar remittances have practically served as the country's remaining hope in keeping our economy from falling apart in spite of the recurring fiscal crisis.

Hence, the grant of postal discount privilege to the immediate family members of OCWs can be an effective tool in inspiring the remaining Filipino OCWs to keep going. The privilege will also serve as a way of showing our gratitude for their heroism, and such, is a small price to pay compared to what they have contributed to the Philippine economy.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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DEPT. OF... 1975

SEP 14 1975

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**AN ACT
EXTENDING POSTAL DISCOUNT PRIVILEGE TO THE IMMEDIATE
FAMILY MEMBERS OF OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS**

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

SECTION 1. *Postal Discount Privilege.* - The immediate family members of Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) are hereby granted fifty percent (50%) discount for postal services; *Provided*, that such mail shall be exclusively addressed to the name of their OCW-relative and at the country of destination where their relative is currently employed; *Provided further*, that this privilege shall cease immediately upon the return to the country of the OCW.

SEC. 2. *Coverage.* - The privilege provided by this Act shall be extended to immediate family members of OCWs whose names are registered with or recognized by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA).

SEC. 3. *OCWs Envelopes.* - Envelopes to be used for mails availing of this privilege shall contain a distinct marking of "FILIPINO OCWs" and a penalty clause printed on the upper right-hand corner, to be devised by the Philippine Postal Corporation (Philpost).

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Philpost together with the POEA shall issue the necessary rules and regulations within thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Penalty Clause.* - Unauthorized use of this privilege as provided in this Act, shall be penalized by a fine of Five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00).

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, rules or orders inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,