

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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *Jr*

S.B. No. 884

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the overseas employment program began two decades ago, the Philippines emerged as one of the top suppliers of seafarers for the world's merchant fleet. Pursuant to the Constitutional provision that "the State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare" (Article II, Sec. 18), the government is mandated to uphold and protect the welfare of our labor force, regardless whether they are employed here or abroad.

The proposed measure then seeks to fix the minimum death benefits for Filipino seafarers and to establish a mechanism at the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency which is tasked to review and realign on a regular basis the said minimum standard rates for death benefits which should always be at par with the prevailing international standards.

Passage of this bill is recommended.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

SECTION 4. **Reviews of Benefits.** – The Philippine Overseas & Employment Administration shall, upon consultation, with the seafarer's union and associations of manning agencies and shipping companies, undertake a regular annual review of the death benefits provided under this Act and through its governing board, update or amend the death benefits to keep it at a level with the prevailing international standard.

SECTION 5. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 6. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,