

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



SENATE

S. No. 49

Introduced by SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA AND PLACEMENT CENTER,
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8759, otherwise known as the "Public Employment Service Office Act of 1999" provides that it shall be the responsibility of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to "establish and maintain a computerized national manpower registry of skills and employment and business opportunities to facilitate the provision and packaging of employment assistance to PESO clients and the setting-up of intra- and inter-regional job clearance systems as part of the overall employment network." Republic Act No. 10691 amended the phraseology of this provision but maintained its essence. RA 10691 further states that, "For their part, persons who are seeking employment, particularly the unemployed, shall register at the PESO for employment facilitation assistance. The establishments, on the other hand, shall submit their job vacancies as well as applicants hired to the PESO to ensure the availability of accurate information on supply and demand for skills in the labor market.

To fulfill this mandate, DOLE launched the National Skills Registration Program (NSRP) in 2008. As a program, NSRP is operationalized by the PESO Employment Information System (PEIS), which records the profile of jobseekers, including their skills and competencies, client transactions, and job vacancies. While the NSRP is managed centrally by DOLE, through the Bureau of Local Employment (BLE), registration of

establishments and jobseekers through the PEIS is carried out by PESOs and DOLE offices at the local level.

While the DOLE already instituted a program to implement the provisions of the PESO law, the creation of a specific organization that will focus on this mandate will allow a more cohesive action that will enable it to serve a wider range of clientele.

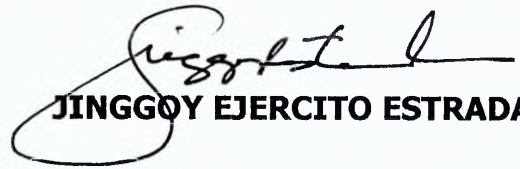
This bill seeks to create the National Manpower Data and Placement Center under DOLE which shall be in charge of gathering and collating all available data and statistics on the present labor force, both employed and unemployed, and update the same every semester. The Center will serve the government and the private sector in terms of specific labor supply by creating national labor pool which may be tapped any time by local companies and the government. As such, it serves as the counterpart of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

The Center shall provide an efficient inventory and classification of our labor and skills supply for maximum use of manpower. More than this, the Center shall provide the pertinent data needed in studies and formulation of strategies to curtail underemployment and unemployment.

This is envisioned to be an effective response to the challenges discussed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its article, "Philippines' COVID-19 Employment Challenge: Labor Market Programs to the Rescue" wherein it stated that "as the Philippines rebounds from the pandemic, strengthening labor market programs will be critical to help workers and enterprises make the transition".

Similarly, a study conducted by the Institute for Labor Studies of the DOLE entitled, "Facilitating Work in the New Normal: An Assessment of Local Public Employment Facilitation Services and Mechanisms in the Philippines" reveals that because of the pandemic, there is an increase of service demand on referral, placement and employment facilitation services particularly offered by PESOs which can be attributed to the growing numbers of unemployed persons who are in pursuit of new employment.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


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

1 Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote the welfare
2 of all workers in terms of harnessing their talents and skills to the fullest. The government
3 shall endeavor to provide an efficient system in tapping such skills and talents.

4 Sec. 2. *Establishment of the National Manpower Data and Placement Center.* - There
5 is hereby established a National Manpower Data and Placement Center, hereinafter referred
6 to as the Center, under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) which shall
7 create the manpower and skills data bank for local employment and act as the placement
8 agency for the same. The Center shall serve as counterpart of the Philippine Overseas
9 Employment Administration (POEA) for local employment.

10 Sec. 3. *Creation and Updating of the Manpower Database.* - The Center shall be the
11 primary office in charge of implementing the mandate of the DOLE under Republic Act No.
12 8759, otherwise known as the "Public Employment Service Office Act of 1999" to establish
13 and maintain a computerized and interoperable national manpower registry of skills and
14 employment as well as business opportunities. It is tasked to gather and collate all
15 available data and statistics on the present labor force, both employed and unemployed,
16 and provide an efficient inventory and classification of our labor and skills supply for
17 maximum use of manpower. It shall also provide the pertinent data needed in studies and
18 formulation of strategies to curtail underemployment and unemployment.

1 The Center shall update the manpower database every semester, or as often as
2 necessary.

3 Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOLE shall promulgate the
4 necessary rules and regulations of this Act.

5 Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* - The amount needed to initially implement the provisions of
6 this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the current year of the DOLE.
7 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be
8 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

9 Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected
11 shall remain valid and subsisting.

12 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
13 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
14 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
15 accordingly.

16 Sec. 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
17 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,