

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

SENATE
S. No. 1501

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 5 provides:

The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.

Millions of Filipinos live and work overseas while continuing to vote and pay taxes in the Philippines. They help in the economy and serve as economic, political and cultural "ambassadors" of the country.

Hence, the National Statistics Office should undertake a census of all Filipinos residing abroad in a special census and eventually in regular censuses as they, albeit living abroad, deserve to receive the same benefits and privileges local residents get.

This bill seeks to provide for an interim census of Filipinos residing abroad for the purpose of eventually including them in regular censuses.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT
2 TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM CENSUS OF FILIPINOS RESIDING ABROAD AND TO
3 REQUIRE THAT SUCH INDIVIDUALS BE INCLUDED IN REGULAR CENSUSES

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Census of Filipinos Abroad
5 Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Census of Filipinos Residing Abroad.* –

7 (A) *In General.* – The National Statistics Office shall—

8 (1) Take a special census of all Filipinos residing abroad on March within three
9 hundred and sixty (360) days after the passage of this Act.

10 (2) Submit the final tabulations under the special census to the President and
11 Congress within nine (9) months after the date specified in paragraph (1), broken down
12 into all appropriate categories, including –

13 (a) Filipinos residing abroad affiliated with the Government, and their
14 dependents; and

15 (b) Filipinos residing abroad not affiliated with the Government, and their
16 dependents.

17 (3) The office, for purposes of facilitating the census scheme, shall:

18 (a) Develop counting methodologies;

19 (b) Define the purposes for which any information could or should be use;

20 and

1 (c) Whether Filipinos residing abroad can be included in the regular
2 census for purposes of the appointment of Representatives in Congress and, if so
3 how that should be done.

4 (4) Take appropriate measures—

5 (a) To provide for the inclusion of *Filipinos residing abroad in the next*
6 *regular census and censuses thereafter; and*

7 (b) To make use of the information obtained from such censuses for such
8 purposes as, and to maximum extent that, the office considers feasible and
9 appropriate.

10 (B) *Interim Report on Special Census.* – Not later than ninety (90) days after the
11 enactment of this Act, the National Statistics Office shall submit to the committees of Congress
12 having legislative jurisdiction over the census a report which shall include—

13 (1) A summary of how the plans and preparations for carrying out the special
14 census are proceeding;

15 (2) A brief description or outline of how the tabulations in the special census are
16 to be carried out; and

17 (3) Information identifying any experts, consultants, interest groups, or other
18 persons outside the office who were consulted in connection with the special census.

19 (C) *Authorization of Appropriations.* – There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
20 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

21 SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provisions or part hereof, is held invalid or
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
23 valid and subsisting.

24 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
25 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
26 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

1 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,