



SENATE

S. No. 192

SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT;
FOREIGN RELATIONS; AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS
PACQUIAO, GORDON, PIMENTEL III AND GATCHALIAN AS
AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS
EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA) TO
DEVELOP, PUBLISH, DISSEMINATE AND
UPDATE A HANDBOOK ON THE RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS
FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995,” AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
2 “Handbook for OFWs Act of 2018”.

3 SEC. 2. *Creating a Handbook for Overseas Filipino*
4 *Workers.* – The handbook for overseas Filipino workers,

1 known in this Act as "Handbook," shall be created and
2 issued to every land-based and sea-based worker free of
3 charge. It shall serve as a ready reference for migrant
4 workers when they need to assert their rights and
5 responsibilities. It shall also deal with key issues that they
6 need to know in order to maintain decent employment
7 conditions overseas.

8 The contents of the Handbook shall be written in
9 English with translations in local languages as may be
10 necessary.

11 SEC. 3. *Objectives of the Handbook.* – The objectives of
12 creating a Handbook are as follows:

13 (a) To empower every Overseas Filipino Worker
14 (OFW) by making them fully aware of their rights and
15 responsibilities;

16 (b) To complement the worker education program of
17 various agencies;

18 (c) To provide a basic information on the labor and
19 living conditions in the country of their destination;

1 legal assistance and the referral to proper
2 medical centers or hospitals;

3 “(b.1) Philippine Overseas Employment
4 Administration – x x x

5 “In addition to its powers and functions,
6 the Administration shall inform migrant
7 workers not only of their rights as workers but
8 also of their rights as human beings, instruct
9 and guide the workers how to assert their
10 rights and provide the available mechanism to
11 redress violation of their rights.

12 “THE ADMINISTRATION IS HEREBY
13 MANDATED TO DEVELOP, PUBLISH,
14 DISSEMINATE AND UPDATE PERIODICALLY
15 A HANDBOOK ON THE RIGHTS AND
16 RESPONSIBILITIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS
17 AS PROVIDED BY PHILIPPINE LAWS AND
18 THE EXISTING LABOR AND SOCIAL LAWS
19 OF THE COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION
20 THAT WILL PROTECT AND GUARANTEE

1 (d) To make the workers well aware of the benefits
2 and drawbacks of working overseas; and

3 (e) To provide necessary information for their
4 reintegration into the Philippine society.

5 SEC. 4. *Amendment.* – Subparagraph (b.1) of
6 paragraph (b) of Section 23 of Republic Act No. 8042, as
7 amended is hereby further amended to read as follows:

8 “SEC. 23. *Role of Government Agencies.* –
9 The following government agencies shall
10 perform the following to promote the welfare
11 and protect the rights of migrant workers and,
12 as far as applicable, all overseas Filipinos:

13 “(a) Department of Foreign Affairs – x x x

14 “(b) Department of Labor and Employment
15 – The Department of Labor and Employment
16 shall see to it that labor and social welfare laws
17 in the foreign countries are fairly applied to
18 migrant workers and whenever applicable, to
19 other overseas Filipinos including the grant of

1 SEC. 5. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Philippine
2 Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), in
3 coordination with the Department of Labor and
4 Employment (DOLE) and the Overseas Workers Welfare
5 Administration (OWWA), Department of Foreign Affairs
6 (DFA), Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT),
7 Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and Maritime
8 Industry Authority (MARINA), is mandated to implement this
9 Act.

10 SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for
11 the continuous publication, distribution and update of the
12 handbook shall be taken from the appropriations of the
13 POEA. Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry out the
14 provisions of this Act shall be provided for in the General
15 Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into
16 law and thereafter.

17 SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, rules or
18 regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this
19 Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

1 THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS. THE
2 HANDBOOK SHALL BE WRITTEN IN
3 SIMPLE WORDS THAT CAN BE EASILY
4 UNDERSTOOD WITH TRANSLATION IN
5 LOCAL LANGUAGE AS MAY BE
6 NECESSARY.

7 "It shall also be responsible for the
8 implementation, in partnership with other law-
9 enforcement agencies, of an intensified
10 program against illegal recruitment activities.
11 For this purpose, the POEA shall provide
12 comprehensive gender-sensitive Pre-employment
13 Orientation Seminars (PEOS) that will discuss
14 topics [such as] NOT ONLY ON THE prevention
15 of illegal recruitment [and gender-sensitivity]
16 BUT ALSO ON THE CONTENT OF THE
17 HANDBOOK ON THE RIGHTS AND
18 RESPONSIBILITIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS.

19 "x x x."

1 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
2 Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall
3 not affect other provisions not affected thereby.

4 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
5 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* and in
6 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,