

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 5

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

RESOLUTION
CREATING A COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS FILIPINOS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE RULE X, SECTION 13 OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE

1 WHEREAS, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) estimates that 10.2
2 million Filipinos are living abroad which includes Overseas Filipino Workers;

3
4 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that a
5 total of 2,299,000 Filipino nationals are working as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)
6 across the globe. These figures are only set to increase as, on average, around 6,000
7 OFWs leave the country per day;

8
9 WHEREAS, remittances from overseas Filipinos account for almost 10 percent
10 of the Gross Domestic Product in 2018;

11
12 WHEREAS, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are hailed as "modern-day
13 heroes" for their sacrifice of having to leave their families behind just to uplift the
14 quality of lives of their loved ones;

15
16 WHEREAS, as the number of Overseas Filipino Workers continue to grow,
17 numerous problems and challenges confront OFWs and their families including, but
18 not limited to, illegal recruitment, employer abuse, sexual abuse, inadequate benefits,
19 inefficient and ineffective delivery of services to OFWs;

1 WHEREAS, to recognize the significant contribution of overseas Filipinos to the
2 country, matters relating to the promotion and protection of the interests, rights and
3 welfare of overseas Filipinos and migrant workers deserve to be taken up
4 independently from matters under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Labor,
5 Employment and Human Resources Development and Committee on Foreign
6 Relations;

7
8 WHEREAS, aspects pertaining to overseas employment covers a wide array of
9 domains and concerns from recruitment to reintegration that need to be treated with
10 distinction as a stand-alone committee: Now, therefore, be it

11
12 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it hereby resolved, To create a Committee on
13 Overseas Filipinos, amending for the purpose Rule X, Section 13 of the Rules of The
14 Senate as follows:

15
16 "Rule X
17 The Committees

18 "SEC. 13. After the organization of the Senate in the manner provided in Rule
19 IX, the following permanent committees shall be formed, with the duties, powers and
20 general jurisdiction specified hereunder:

21 x x x

22 "12) Committee on Foreign Relations. - Fifteen (15) members. All matters
23 relating to the relations of the Philippines with other nations generally; diplomatic and
24 consular services; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the United Nations
25 Organization and its agencies; multi-lateral organizations; all international
26 agreements, obligations and contracts [; and overseas Filipinos]."

27 x x x

28 "21) Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development. -
29 Thirteen (13) members. All matters relating to labor, employment and human resource
30 development; maintenance of industrial peace; promotion of employer-employee
31 cooperation; labor education, standards and statistics; organization of the labor
32 market including recruitment, training and placement of workers [and exports of

1 human resources]; foreign workers in the Philippines; promotion and development of
2 workers' organizations; and promotion and development of employment-intensive
3 technology.

4 X X X

5 **"41) COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS FILIPINOS. - ELEVEN (11) MEMBERS.**
6 **ALL MATTERS RELATING TO OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT OF FILIPINOS;**
7 **POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES ON THE PROMOTION AND**
8 **PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS,**
9 **PARTICULARLY MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES;**
10 **REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS FOR RETURNING OVERSEAS FILIPINOS"**

11

12 RESOLVED, further, That in order to carry out the objectives of this Resolution,
13 an initial sum shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Senate of the
14 Philippines under Fiscal Year 2019 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such
15 amount as may be necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the
16 General Appropriations At.

Adopted,



SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO