

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3378



**Introduced by Hon. Bryan B. Revilla, Hon. Lani Mercado-Revilla and
Hon. Ramon "Jolo" Revilla III**

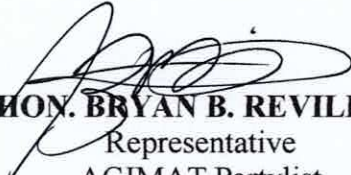
EXPLANATORY NOTE


As of 2020, there are 1.77 million Overseas Filipino Workers according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. According to the same data, the total remittances sent by OFWs totaled to 134.8 Billion pesos, with an average remittance sent per OFW of eighty six thousand and eight hundred ten pesos (P86,810.00) in 2020.


Considering the sacrifices of OFWs have to endure as well as the contributions they bring to the economy, it is the duty of the State to provide assistance and care to them.

This bill seeks to create a credit assistance program for our modern day heroes. Under this bill, a prospective OFW who has a valid contract as certified by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) may avail of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) loan from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to defray the living expenses of his family during the first few months of his absence as well as other expenses incurred during his pre-employment.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. BRYAN B. REVILLA
Representative
AGIMAT Partylist


HON. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
Representative
2nd District of Cavite


HON. RAMON "JOLO" REVILLA III
Representative
1st District of Cavite



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3378

**Introduced by Hon. Bryan B. Revilla, Hon. Lani Mercado-Revilla and
Hon. Ramon "Jolo" Revilla III**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CREDIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS
FILIPINO WORKERS

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Overseas Filipino Workers
Credit Assistance Act of 2019.”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – Consistent with the State policy that the State affirms
labor as primary economic force and that it shall protect the rights of workers and promote
their welfare, it is hereby declared that the government and its instrumentalities must
promote and carry out programs geared towards advancing the interest of the Overseas
Filipino Workers (OFW) by providing them access to credit facilities even before their
departure.

Sec. 3. Loans. – An overseas contract worker with a valid employment contract as certified
by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) may avail of a loan of
not more than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) from the Overseas Worker Welfare
Association (OWWA) to defray the living expenses of his family during the first three
months of absence as well as recruitment expenses including placement fees,
documentation costs and plane tickets, Provided, That any one of the member of his family
not otherwise disqualified by law shall participate in the loan as co-borrower, and execute
necessary documentation that effect. Provided further, That the loan shall be granted and
released by the OWWA upon proper submission of the following documents, duly certified
to in writing by the recruitment agency with corresponding authentication and properly
certified/verified by the POEA.

- a) Employment Contract;
- b) Plane ticket; and
- c) Bank Account

Sec. 4. Establishment of Bank Account. – OFWs availing of the credit assistance under
this Act shall open a bank account in which payments for the loan shall be made.

1 **Sec. 5. Payment of Loan.** – The loan shall be paid in twelve (12) equal monthly
2 installments or more but not exceeding twenty four (24) months at a preferred interest rate
3 not to exceed six percent (6%) per annum through the bank account to be established under
4 the immediately preceding Section. For the purpose, the applicant shall execute the
5 necessary authority for the bank to withhold the monthly loan amortization from his
6 remittances.

7
8 **Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The OWWA, in consultation with
9 organized labor groups and other relevant sectors, shall issue rules and regulations for the
10 effective implementation of this Act. The IRR shall include provisions that will address
11 nonpayment of loans provided by this Act and the corresponding penalties that may be
12 imposed, collection and administration of loans, and other issues of significance relevant
13 to this Act.

14
15 **Sec. 7. Appropriation.** – The amount needed to implement the provisions of this Act shall
16 be appropriated out of the Overseas Workers Welfare Fund.

17
18 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – All decrees, executive orders and other administrative
19 issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
20 repealed or modified accordingly.

21
22 **SEC. 14. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

24
25 Approved,