

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
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First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2700

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Introduced by HON. TRANQUILINO B. CARMONA, M.D.

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**"AN ACT REQUIRING ALL FILIPINO REGISTERED NURSES TO RENDER AT LEAST TWO (2) YEARS SERVICE WITHIN THE COUNTRY PRIOR TO ANY EMPLOYMENT ABROAD"**

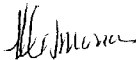
**EXPLANATORY NOTE:**

The exodus of Filipino registered nurses for a high-paying employment abroad is very alarming. By a decade more our hospitals, clinics and even the teaching staff of the colleges and university may be emptied of the competent nurses if no appropriate measures may be undertaken. Noted further, medical doctors are flocking back to schools just to pursue the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, similarly aiming for a high-paying job at the foreign developed countries.

Per record of the Philippine Overseas Welfare Administration, in years 1996 to 2002, there are at least 16,124 Filipino registered nurses left to work abroad. This statistics does not include nurses who went abroad as tourist but actually worked there. Though, we gain financially on this track due to dollar remittances, however, on the other side, our health care system is affected and it may even collapse. For most of those leaving are the experienced and skilled ones.

The Philippine Nurses Association on the other hand, estimated that there are around 40,000 Filipino nurses are now working abroad. There are 7,000 to 10,000 nurses leave for jobs abroad each year. Should this trend continue, a gap in nursing services in local hospitals and clinics might happen, for it usually takes years of experience for one to become conversant and knowledgeable in the field of nursing.

For the common good, and having seen the ill-effect of this exodus, this measure is advanced and expected to safeguard the health care system of the Republic and to abate the trend of seeking foreign employment while we are in the process of crafting the development plans for the Filipino registered nurses.



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

Section 1. *Title.* This act shall be known as the “Mandatory Two-Year Domestic Service For All Filipino Registered Nurses Act.”

Section 2. *Two (2) Year Service Requirement.* All Filipino registered nurses shall be required to render at least two-year domestic service prior to employment abroad. For the purpose of this act, the two-year service requirement shall mean the two (2) years continuous or a total accumulated service/s rendered in the country as a practicing registered nurse pursuant to the laws, policies, rules and regulations of the Professional Regulatory Commission’s (PRC) Board of Nursing.

Section 3. *Eligibility & Clearance.* The prospective Filipino registered nurse who wishes to apply for a foreign employment shall seek the **Eligibility Status** with the PRC, who shall be deputized to issue the same for the purpose of this Act. The Eligibility Status shall be issued only upon compliance with the required two-year domestic service by the applicant.

The **Clearance**, for the purpose of this Act, shall refer to the permit of the government for the applicant to engage in a foreign country service as a registered nurse. The Secretary of Labor and Employment, under this Act, shall be deputized to issue such clearance based on the eligibility status of the applicant pursuant to the preceding section.

Section 4. *Implementation.* The Secretary of Labor and Employment shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

Section 5. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 5. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED.