

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



23 FEB -6 P 6 :42

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1842

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

AN ACT
INSTITUTING THE EXPANDED BALIKBAYAN PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6768, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 9174, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the state to protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare. Republic Act No. 6768 or "An Act Instituting A Balikbayan Program" was created to encourage overseas Filipinos to come and visit their motherland. An estimated 5.5 million balikbayan boxes are sent by to the Philippines every year, or roughly 15,000 boxes per day. In recognition of their hard work, sacrifice and contribution to the economy, the proposed measure seeks to amend the Expanded Balikbayan program by exempting tax and duties of Balikbayan boxes thereof.

In view of thereof, the immediate passage of this bill is sought

RAFFY T. TULFO
Senator

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 2, sub-section (b) of Republic Act No. 6768 (R.A. 6768), As
2 Amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 (b) THE TERM "FAMILY" SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

4 (b-1) The spouse and children of the balikbayan who are not balikbayans in
5 their own right traveling with the latter to the Philippines;

6 (b-2) THE PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, BROTHERS OR SISTERS (WHETHER BY
7 WHOLE OR HALF-BLOOD) OF THE BALIKBAYAN; AND

8 (b-3) THE RELATIVES OF THE BALIKBAYAN BY CONSANGUINITY IN THE
9 COLLATERAL LINE WITHIN THE FOURTH (4TH) DEGREE OF RELATIONSHIP."
10

11 **Sec. 2.** A new sub-section under Section 2 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

12 "SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act:

- 1 (a) xxx;
2 (b) xxx;
3 (c) XXX; AND
4 (d) THE TERM "BALIKBAYAN BOX" SHALL MEAN THE RECEPTACLE OF
5 PERSONAL AND/OR HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS. INCLUDING LIVELIHOOD TOOLS,
6 IN NON-COMMERCIAL QUANTITY WHICH ARE SENT BY BALIKBAYANS TO
7 THEIR FAMILY AS DEFINED IN THIS ACT."
8

9 **Sec.3.** A new sub-section under Section 3 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

10 "SECTION 3. Benefits and Privileges of the Balikbayan. - The balikbayan and
11 his family shall be entitled to the following:

12 XXX

13 (H) ONE (1) BALIKBAYAN BOX MEASURING 24 INCHES BY 24 INCHES BY 30
14 INCHES (24X24X30), SENT EACH MONTH BY A BALIKBAYAN TO HIS OR HER
15 FAMILY SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM ALL DUTIES AND TAXES IMPOSED UNDER
16 THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997 (NIRC), AS AMENDED,
17 AND THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE
18 OF THE PHILIPPINES (TCCP), AS AMENDED.
19

20 **Sec.4.** Separability Clause. Should any provision of this Act or part hereof be declared
21 unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall remain valid
22 and effective.
23

24 **Sec. 5.** Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof
25 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended
26 or modified accordingly.
27

28 **Sec. 6.** Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its
29 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,