

Analysis Matrix: Localization of Philippine health laws and policies



Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11223 - Universal Health Care Act of 2018 https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2019/ra_11223_2019.html	An Act Instituting Universal Health Care for All Filipinos, Prescribing Reforms in the Health Care System Section 6. Service Coverage. (a) Every Filipino shall be granted immediate eligibility and access to preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care for medical, dental, mental and emergency health services, delivered either as population-based or individual-based health services: provided, that the goods and services to be included shall be determined through a fair and transparent HTA process; (b) Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, PhilHealth shall implement a comprehensive outpatient benefit, including outpatient drug benefit and emergency medical services in accordance with the recommendations of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) created under Section 34 hereof; The DOH and the local government units (LGUs) shall endeavor to provide a health care delivery system that will afford every Filipino a primary care provider that would act as the navigator, coordinator, and initial and continuing point of contact in the health care delivery system: provided, that except in emergency or serious cases and when proximity is a concern, access to higher levels of care shall be coordinated by the primary care provider; and (d) A people-oriented approach for the delivery of health services that is centered on people's needs and well-being, and cognizant of the differences in culture, values, and beliefs.	PhilHealth membership of OFW OWWA Region VII cited a problem of perception on the part of the OFWs vis-à-vis PhilHealth membership: some do not see membership with the health insurance program as necessary while they are at work abroad because their medical needs are covered by the contract and the employer shoulders their medical insurance while they are there This notion limits the medical benefits the OFW gets to himself/herself. Membership in PhilHealth also covers their immediate family members, thus, unburdening the eligible OFW-member from the financial concerns of hospitalization and medical treatment costs once a family member meets an accident or catches a disease.

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RA No. 11223 - Universal Health Care Act of 2018	DOH Administrative Order No. 2012-0012 Rules and Regulations Governing the New Classification of Hospitals and other Health Facilities in the Philippines https://hfsrb.doh.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ao2012-0012.pdf. Center for Health Development (CHD) is the regional health office of DOH DOH Department Circular 2017-0371 DOH Position on the New Online Registration System for Pre-Employment Medical Examination of Overseas Filipino Workers DOH Department Order 2021-0496 “Guidelines for Port-to-Port Collaboration for Healthcare for Filipinos in Sabah” “The DOH, through its Task Force for the Provision of Health Services to Filipinos in Sabah, and the Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia, together with Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur (KLPE) / Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA), and Sabah National Security Council (NSC), agreed to strengthen coordination through Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for port-to-port collaboration for health care for Filipinos from the Temporary Detention Centers (TDCs) in Sabah” (Final Report IFRC). DOH 2017-0371. DOH position on the New Online Registration System for PEME of OFWs DOH 2006-2119 Creation of DOH Clinic at OWWA Building DOH 2021-0469 Guidelines for Port-to-Port Collaboration for Healthcare for Filipinos in Sabah	

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RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	PhilHealth No. 011-A-2011 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2011/circ11-A_2011.pdf. PhilHealth Circular No. 19, s. 2017 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2017/annexes/0019/AnnexA-MedicalCaseRates.pdf. PhilHealth Circular No. 24, s. 2015. PhilHealth Circular No. 024 s. 2015 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2015/circ024-2015.pdf. PhilHealth Circular No. 035, s. 2015 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2015/circ035-2015.pdf. PhilHealth Circular No. 015, s. 2012 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2012/circ15_2012.pdf. 1. 001-2015. PhilHealth Coverage for Confirmed cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). 2. 007-2012. Amendment to PhilHealth Circular no. 22 on the New Premium Contribution of Overseas Workers Program (OWP). 3. 0025-2013. Implementation of the OWP Premium and payment schemes effective CY 2014 (PhP 2,400 minimum per year). 3. 0025-2013. Implementation of the OWP Premium and payment schemes effective CY 2014 (PhP 2,400 minimum per year). 4. 0031-2013. The shift of provider payment mechanism from Fee-for-Service to Case-based payment. Universality that states that “the National Health Insurance Program shall “give the highest priority to achieving coverage for the entire population with at least a basic minimum package of health insurance benefits.”	PhilHealth remains one of the most reliable means in assisting OFs and their family members with health problems because PhilHealth is the implementing agency of the Universal Healthcare System. PhilHealth programs all-encompassing in terms of scope and coverage. Every PhilHealth card-bearing Filipino may avail of pertinent PhilHealth programs. To date, PhilHealth reaches out to the indigents or the poorest of the poor among Filipinos Limitation: Local government units (LGUs) are observed to have been the best mechanism in bringing in people to access PhilHealth services. Many local indigents enter the database of PhilHealth, thanks to the LGUs. Otherwise, they would have remained unregistered sections in the fringes of our society Some OFWs observed however that since indigent individuals received their PhilHealth cards for free, their membership fee is practically financed by the government. The formal working sectors of our economy, those paying their contributions in PhilHealth and considered the backbone of the insurance institution, claim they essentially subsidize the indigents availing of PhilHealth programs In Region 7. It seems to be the common problem of members of the Family Circle who were at one time in the immediate past have been OFWs themselves

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RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	5. 025-2013. Implementing Guidelines on Medical and Procedure rates. 6. 2929-0014. Premium Contribution and Collection of Payment of Overseas Filipinos Members. 7. 2021-0009. PhilHealth Coverage for Outpatient Hemodialysis benefit package to Maximum of 144 sessions for CY 2021. 8. 2021-0021. Benefit Packages for SARS CoV-2 Testing RT-PCR Tests (Plate-based and Cartridge-based). 9. 2022-003. Benefit Packages for Inpatient Management of Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and Clarification of Coverage of Probable Cases . 10. 2022-0005. Implementing Guidelines for the PhilHealth Konsultasyon Sulit at Tama (PhilHealth Konsulta) Package (Revision 1). 11. 2022-0032. Governing policies of the Konsulta The National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) was established in 1995 with the passage of Republic Act (RA) 7875. PhilHealth took over the Medicare functions previously administered by the Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC) since 1972. “Section 6. Mandatory Coverage. – All citizens of the Philippines shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program. In accordance with the principles	Limitation: Health insurance used to be accessed by them in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan. This used to be paid by their employers based on their contracts. But the problem with that is that the insurance stops the moment the contract of an OFW is finished. They, therefore, come home without any access to health cards or insurance

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RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	of universality and compulsory coverage enunciated in Section 2(b) and 2(l) hereof, implementation of the Program shall ensure sustainability of coverage and continuous enhancement of the quality of service: Provided, That the Program shall be compulsory in all provinces, cities and municipalities nationwide, notwithstanding the existence of LGU-based health insurance programs: Provided, further, That the Corporation, Department of Health (DOH), local government units (LGUs), and other agencies including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other national government agencies (NGAs) shall ensure that members in such localities shall have access to quality and cost-effective health care services.” “(c) Violations of an Employer – “(1) Failure/Refusal to Register/Deduct/Remit the Contributions – Any employer who fails or refuses to register employees, regardless of their employment status, or to deduct contributions from the employee’s compensation or remit the same to the Corporation shall be punished with a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (PhP 5,000.00) multiplied by the total number of employees of the firm. “Any employer or any officer authorized to collect contributions under this Act who, after collecting or deducting the monthly contributions from his employee’s compensation, fails to remit the said contributions to the Corporation within thirty (30) days from the date they become due shall be presumed to have misappropriated such contributions	

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RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	“(2) Unlawful Deductions – Any employer or officer who shall deduct directly or indirectly from the compensation of the covered employees or otherwise recover from them his own contribution on behalf of such employees shall be punished with a fine of five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00) multiplied by the total number of affected employees “If the act or omission penalized by this act be committed by an association, partnership, corporation or any other institution, its managing directors or partners or president or general manager, or other persons responsible for the commission of the said act shall be liable for the penalties provided for in this act Devolution – The Program shall be implemented in consultation with local government units (LGUs), subject to the overall policy directions set by the national government; Section 22. Establishment. – the corporation shall establish a Local Health Insurance Office, hereinafter referred to as the office, in every province or chartered city, or wherever it is deemed practicable to bring its services closer to members of the program. However, one office may serve the needs of more than one province or city when the merged operations will result in lower administrative cost and greater cross-subsidy between rich and poor localities. Section 29. Payment for indigent contributions. – contributions for indigent members shall be subsidized partially by the local government unit where the member resides. The corporation shall provide	

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RA No. 11036 - Mental Health Act of 2018	An act establishing a national mental health policy for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of integrated mental health services, promoting and protecting the rights of persons utilizing psychosocial health services, appropriating funds therefor and other purposes Section 37. Duties and Responsibilities of the Local Government Units (LGUs). - The LGUs shall: a. Review, formulate, and develop the regulations and guidelines necessary to implement an effective mental health care and wellness policy within the territorial jurisdiction of each LGU, including the passage of a local ordinance on the subject of mental health, consistent with existing relevant national policies and guidelines; b. Integrate mental health care services in the basic health care services, and ensure that mental health services are provided in primary health care facilities and hospitals, within their respective territorial jurisdictions; c. Establish training programs necessary to enhance the capacity of mental health care service providers at the LGU level, in coordination with appropriate national government agencies and other stakeholders; d. Promote deinstitutionalization and other recovery-based approaches to the delivery of mental health care services;	Regional facilities for mental health should be upgraded and the number of psychiatrists increased. To help OFWs, DOH established a hotline and/or teleconsulting service for OFWs. One has simply to dial 1348 and a proficient agent will receive the call. During the first year of this system, DOH hired a calling center to handle this but that did not prove effective enough because call center agents would not know how to deal with specific concerns of individual OFWs. What the DOH did was to train people from the agency to manage the teleconsulting service center, which eventually proved to be much more effective and helpful. The plan is to cascade this to the different regions starting June 2023 This did not use to be a major concern. Yes, HIV was given much more emphasis until COVID came. The relatively long quarantine period, 14 days, for every OFW coming home plus the possibility of having contracted COVID when the results of the tests come in, drove a lot of them to mental stress DOH established a 24/7 hotline or teleconsulting for anyone needing consultation to call. Anyone could dial directly 1348 and receive this service from the agency Mental Health Mental health issues have come to the fore in recent times. More than the teleconsulting services, the number of specialists and those specializing in psychiatry has grown dramatically in the past few years exactly because of the perceived and actually growing need for them. A case in point in this regard

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RA No. 11036 - Mental Health Act of 2018	e. Establish, reorient, and modernize mental health care facilities necessary to adequately provide mental health services, within their respective territorial jurisdictions; f. Where independent living arrangements are not available, provide or facilitate access to public housing facilities, vocational training and skills development programs, and disability or pension benefits; g. Refer service users to mental health facilities, professionals, workers, and other service providers for appropriate care; and h. Establish a multi-sectoral stakeholder network for the identification, management, and prevention of mental health conditions. (1) Inpatient Benefit Package: Pneumonia High Risk. Urinary Tract Infection (2) Out-Patient Benefit Package: Hemodialysis (3) Konsulta Benefit Package (4) Z Benefit Package: Breast Cancer (Stage 0 to IIIA), Kidney Transplantation (5) Special Benefit Package: Animal Bite Treatment Package, Outpatient HIV /AIDS Package “Section 40. Duties and functions. - The Council shall exercise the following duties; (d) Coordinate the activities and strengthen working relationships among national government agencies, LGUs, and nongovernment agencies involved in mental health promotion;	is the Vicente Soto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City DILG mental health initiative for OFWs So far, DILG does not have a major program for mental health among OFWs, but it does conduct mental health awareness meetings with the help of DOH and OWWA Mental distress among Overseas Bangsamoro Workers MSSD could hardly cope with the cases of OBWs who are mentally distressed. More professionals are needed Limitation: This is one of the gaps that the BARMM needs to address – the lack of mental health professionals who could directly assist workers repatriated and are suffering from mental health problems having been traumatized. Now, patients are directed to Davao City for exams and tests or to see mental health specialists. This means corresponding travel expenses for the families of OBW in distress Such problems are being discussed for appropriate solutions by the Bangsamoro Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking and VAWC (BIACAT-VAWC), which includes MOLE, MOH and MSSD However, there is also an issue of institutionalization of this coordinative mechanism: most of the representatives vary from time to time, meeting to meeting. There is therefore no consistency in the representation of agencies as alternates vary.

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RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Section 16. Under Section 23 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, add new paragraphs (c) and (d) with their corresponding subparagraphs to read as follows: “(d) Local Government Units. – In the fight against illegal recruitment, the local government units (LGUs), in partnership with the POEA, other concerned government agencies, and non-government organizations advocating the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers, shall take a proactive stance by being primarily responsible for the dissemination of information to their constituents on all aspects of overseas employment. To carry out this task, the following shall be undertaken by the LGUs: “(d.1) Provide a venue for the POEA, other concerned government agencies and non-government organizations to conduct PEOS to their constituents on a regular basis; “(d.2) Establish overseas Filipino worker help desk or kiosk in their localities with the objective of providing current information to their constituents on all the processes aspects of overseas employment. Such desk or kiosk shall, as be linked to the database of all concerned government agencies, particularly the POEA for its updated lists of overseas job orders and licensed recruitment agencies in good standing.”	Section 16 d. 2. Establish Overseas Filipino Worker Help Desk or kiosk in their localities with the objective of providing current information to their constituents on all the processes aspects of overseas employment. Such desk or kiosk shall, as be linked to the database of all concerned government agencies, particularly the POEA for its updated lists of overseas job orders and licensed recruitment agencies in good standing Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2017-0001 - Integrated Policy Guidelines and Procedures in the Implementation of the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program (IMRAP) for Overseas Filipinos; jointly by 7 government agencies: DOH, DFA, DOLE (OWWA, POEA), DSWD, DILG, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO); signed on 17 June 2017.
	Rule VIII – Role of DFA Section 1. Assistance to Nationals as the Third Pillar of Philippine Foreign Policy Assistance to nationals is the third pillar of Philippine foreign policy. Pursuant to the Philippine Foreign	

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RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Service Act of 1991 and the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, as amended, the DFA is mandated to formulate and implement policies and programs to promote and protect the rights and welfare of Filipino migrants, and provide consular and legal assistance to overseas Filipinos in distress. RULE XI - Role of DOH Section 1. Regulation of Medical Clinics The Department of Health (DOH) shall regulate the activities and operations of all clinics which conduct medical, physical, optical, dental, psychological and other similar examinations, hereinafter referred to as health examinations, on Filipino migrant workers as requirement for their overseas employment. Pre-Employment Medical Examinations (PEME) for overseas work applicants shall be performed only in DOH- accredited medical clinics and health facilities utilizing the standards set forth by DOH. Pursuant to this, the DOH shall ensure that: (e) Within a period of three (3) years from the effectivity of the Act, all DOH regional and/or provincial hospitals under local government units shall establish and operate clinics that can serve the health examination requirements of Filipino migrant workers to provide them easy access to such clinics all over the country and lessen their transportation and lodging expenses; Section 5. Issuance of Guidelines. Within sixty (60) days from effectivity of these Rules,	

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RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	the DOH shall issue the pertinent guidelines to implement the provisions of this Rule. Rule XII - Role Of LGUs Section 1. Role in Anti-Illegal Recruitment and the Overseas Employment Program. In the fight against illegal recruitment, the local government units (LGUs) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in partnership with the POEA, other concerned government agencies, and non-government organizations advocating the rights and welfare of OFWs, shall take a proactive stance by being primarily responsible for the dissemination of information to their constituents on all aspects of overseas employment. To carry out this task, the following shall be undertaken by the LGUs: a. Launch an aggressive campaign against illegal recruitment. They shall provide legal assistance to victims of illegal recruitment and, when necessary, coordinate with appropriate government agencies regarding the arrest and/or prosecution of illegal recruiters. They shall report any illegal recruitment activity to the POEA for appropriate action; b. Provide a venue for the POEA, other government agencies, NGOs, and trained LGU personnel to conduct Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) to their constituents on a regular basis; c. Establish OFW help desks or kiosks in their localities with the objective of providing current	

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RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Establish OFW help desks or kiosks in their localities with the objective of providing current information to their constituents on all the processes and aspects of overseas employment. Such desks or kiosks shall, as far as practicable, be fully computerized and shall be linked to the database of all concerned government agencies, particularly the POEA for its updated lists of overseas job orders and licensed agencies in good standing; and d. Establish and maintain a database pertaining to a master list of OFWs residing in their respective localities, classified according to occupation, job category, civil status, gender, by country or state of destination, including visa classification, name, address, and contact number of the employer	
	Section 15. Repatriation of Workers; Emergency Repatriation Fund – The repatriation of the worker and the transport of his personal belongings shall be the primary responsibility of the agency which recruited or deployed the worker overseas. All costs attendant to repatriation shall be borne by or charged to the agency concerned and/or its principal. Likewise, the repatriation of remains and transport of the personal belongings of a deceased worker and all costs attendant thereto shall be borne by the principal and/or local agency. However, in cases where the termination of employment is due solely to the fault of the worker, the principal/employer or agency shall not	

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RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	in any manner be responsible for the repatriation of the former and/or his belongings The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), in coordination with appropriate international agencies, shall undertake the repatriation of workers in cases of war, epidemic, disasters or calamities, natural or man-made, and other similar events without prejudice to reimbursement by the responsible principal or agency. However, in cases where the principal or recruitment agency cannot be identified, all costs attendant to repatriation shall be borne by the OWWA For this purposes, there is hereby created and established an emergency repatriation fund under the administration control and supervision of the OWWA, initially to consist of one hundred million pesos (PhP 100,000,000.00), inclusive of outstanding balances Section 17. Establishment of Re-Placement and Monitoring Center - A Re-placement and Monitoring Center is hereby created in the Department of Labor and Employment for returning Filipino migrant workers which shall provide a mechanism for their reintegration into the Philippine society, serve as a promotion house for their local employment, and tap their skills and potentials for national development The Department of Labor and Employment, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, formulate a program that would motivate migrant workers to plan for productive options such as entry into highly technical jobs or undertakings, livelihood and entrepreneurial development, better wage employment, and investment of savings	

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	For this purpose, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Technology Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), and other government agencies involved in training and livelihood development shall give priority to return who had been employed as domestic helpers and entertainers Section 18. Functions of the Re-Placement and Monitoring Center - The center shall provide the following services: - Develop livelihood programs and projects for returning Filipino migrant workers in coordination with the private sector; - Coordinate with appropriate private and government agencies the promotion, development, re-placement and the full utilization of their potentials; - Institute in cooperation with other government agencies concerned, a computer-based information system on skilled Filipino migrant workers which shall be accessible to all local recruitment agencies and employers, both public and private; - Provide a periodic study and assessment of job opportunities for returning Filipino migrant workers	

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	Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2017-0001 - Integrated Policy Guidelines and Procedures in the Implementation of the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program (IMRAP) for Overseas Filipinos; jointly by 7 government agencies: DOH, DFA, DOLE (OWWA, POEA), DSWD, DILG, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO); signed on 17 June 2017.	
RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021	Section 24. Coordination with the Bangsamoro Ministry of Labor and Employment - The Department shall closely coordinate with the Bangsamoro Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) on the training, protection, and deployment of overseas Bangsamoro workers. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed to affect or impede the authority of the Bangsamoro MOLE on labor, employment, and occupation. For the avoidance of doubt, transferred field offices of the POEA and other related offices pursuant to Republic Act No. 11054, or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), shall be excluded from the Act's coverage The issuance of all forms of OEC for rehires or Balik-Manggagawa shall be free of charge effective July 29, 2023.”	Memorandum No. 110 effective July 29, 2023 provides, “In the interest of the service and in accordance with the Department Circular No. 02, Series of 2023, the issuance of all forms of OEC for rehires or Balik-Manggagawa shall be free of charge effective July 29, 2023.” Cooperation between BARM and DMW Section 24. The Department of Migrant Workers shall collaborate closely with the Bangsamoro Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) to ensure coordination in the training, protection, and deployment of overseas Bangsamoro workers while recognizing and respecting the authority of the Bangsamoro MOLE in labor, employment, and occupation matters, and clarifying that transferred field offices of the POEA and related offices under the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) are excluded from the coverage of the act Efforts on the part of the MOLE-BARM and DMW to share data that is now underway must be pursued to its successful completion MOLE also provides social benefits to those who are sick, disabled, met accidental or natural death. Php

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RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021		200,000 for those who died while at work, while those died of natural causes, Php 100,000. Since 2020, five families have availed of the first; another eight families have availed of the second. On top of these, there were five beneficiaries who applied for disability assistance and another five for dismemberment assistance since 2020. Each of them received Php 100,000 MOLE's Overseas Welfare Bureau does everything to disseminate the information about this program. Some gap in information dissemination, however, is noted in the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawitawi. It is possible program information may not have reached the widest population of OBWs and their families in these areas. During PEOS and PDOS, MOLE-BARMM hands out materials to OBWs with useful information and contact persons and their numbers Two Bangsamoro Autonomous Acts (BAAs) pertaining to overseas employment have already been passed into law. The first is BAA No. 9, which is aimed at regulating recruitment agencies operating in the BARMM. The second is BAA No. 19 or the or an act institutionalizing policies for Bangsamoro overseas employment and establishing a standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of Overseas Bangsamoro Workers (OBWs) and their families. DOH Department Memorandum No. 2023-0142, on the other hand, would benefit many OBWs who to date still go to Davao for their medical exams because of the absence of accredited counterpart clinics in the BARMM. The Department Order reiterates the need to

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RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021		establish Medical Facilities for Overseas Workers and Seafarers (MFOWS) in DOH hospitals. Meanwhile, EO No. 154 s. 2021 orders the establishment of the OFW Hospital, and the creation of the Inter-Agency Committee on the OFW Hospital. With the operationalization of the OFW hospital in Pampanga, it could now provide medical services to the OFs and their dependents. Not only this. Under this EO it's not just responsive through the provision of immediate medical services to the OFs and their dependents; it is also doing proactive activities like info dissemination and scientific research on common diseases among OFs to prevent these as required in Section 2B of the EO Based on initial research effort, the common disease is hypertension among OFs in Region 3 and most of those afflicted are from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, or from Middle East, in general As of end-March 2023, the OFW hospital has already assisted 10,000 plus OFs, most of whom are outpatients, after almost one year of operation. As of the same period, 40 in-patients were served by the hospital since it started receiving such patients last October 2022. All of those served since the start of the hospital operation were free of charge Active membership in OWWA is required to avail of the services of the OFW hospital

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RA No. 10801 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Act of 2016	Chapter VII, Section 26. Duties and Responsibilities of the OWWA Secretariat. – The OWWA Secretariat shall perform and assume the following duties and responsibilities: (a) To implement all decisions and policies promulgated by the Board including investment and fund management; (b) To manage programs and implement the delivery of welfare services to its members, both local and overseas, supported by advocacy and information campaign programs; (i) To establish and maintain linkages and networks with social and institutional partners, both local and international;	OWWA Membership Fee of USD 25, which gives every OFWs access to all programs and services of OWWA. Payment is compulsory for all OFWs leaving the country for the first time The coverage is two years. Therefrom, membership fee is paid voluntarily OWWA grants benefits as an exception depending on the cases presented with the required proofs Limitation: Only active members can avail of the OWWA programs. This policy is implemented in the different regions Most Overseas Filipinos do not seek membership with OWWA because they think that it is only for OFWs. Those OFWs whose membership have expired and have not been renewed voluntarily by the OF are no longer eligible to avail of OWWA programs and services. MEDplus, for example, is a program meant to match up to a maximum of P50,000 what PhilHealth gives to individual OFWs beneficiaries. This, however, covers only those who are active members of OWWA The Unified Repatriation Assistance Program This is a big help to those OFs who are terminally ill. Coordinative work between OWWA and DOH is secured even before the actual repatriation to ensure smooth operation. From the airport, upon repatriation, the patient is endorsed to DOH, which determines the hospital where the patient is to be brought for treatment and confinement

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RA No. 10801 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Act of 2016		All necessary information regarding pertinent assistance to the OFWs with terminal illness from PCSO and other agencies are then forwarded to OWWA for coordination Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a multistakeholder group including DOH, DFA, OWWA, to say a few, formulated a set of standard operating procedures should emerging and recurring infectious diseases happen. Limitation: When the pandemic broke out, many of these SOPs became irrelevant considering the actual response to and management of the pandemic The SOPs have since never been revisited OWWA-supervised OFW Family Circles OWWA-supervised OFW Family Circles are now based in major cities and towns at the very least. These Family Circles (FCs) used to be with National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NCRO), which conceptualized and spearheaded their creation. At present, OFW FCs serve as the frontline information and coordinative mechanism of OWWA vis-à-vis OFWs and the family members they left behind. The role of OFW FCs became more pronounced during the pandemic when closer coordination with OFW families was paramount, primarily those with OFWs being repatriated for various reasons especially health. OWWA of late developed a livelihood program for OFW FCs. Existing Family Circles may apply for a

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RA No. 10801 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Act of 2016		financial grant of up to P1 million for the group's livelihood enterprise e.g. rice retailing, to provide the circle with a means to generate additional income for the officers and members and their respective families. More often than not, OFW FCs are managed by former OFs who settled already back in their respective towns. Some groups have developed certain strengths and skills. For example, FCs in Region IV-a demonstrated skills in building up database of OFs in their corresponding jurisdictions. This started in the pandemic when close coordination was required between repatriated OFs and their families. The OFW FCs served as the mechanism for such coordination under of course the supervision of the local OWWA offices. Even on the verge of a pandemic-free period, OFW FCs in such region chose to sustain the arrangement with line agencies and LGUs, town- and barangay-level alike, for the OF and families' concerns. Of late, however, some OFW FCs in the south seem to be preoccupied by the management of their livelihood grants from OWWA, which is understandable. They subscribe to OWWA requirements and timeline as the fund is disbursed to them in several tranches. They consider this a priority as it is an opportunity for them to transition from earning abroad and use their acquired skills in managing small enterprises here to continue providing for themselves and their families.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 7111 - Overseas Workers' Investment Fund Act of 1991	(3) To issue special receipts through accredited financial institutions or certified couriers abroad as evidence of Government's guarantee for the workers' foreign exchange remittances;	The State is to protect and promote the welfare of Filipinos overseas workers; to pioneer and develop innovative means to provide incentives; and to uplift the workers' families' living standards. It is likewise the policy of the State to reduce the foreign debt burden in order to better achieve sustained economic growth by way of tapping the unofficial and informal remittances of said workers.
Executive Order No. 203 - Establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee to develop and implement the Shared Government Information System for Migration (IAC-SGISM), 24 Jan 2000	The EO predicates the following which intentionally and directly favor and benefit OFWs – “WHEREAS, the State recognizes not only the important contribution of overseas migrant workers to the country, but also the vulnerable situations they are often placed in; “WHEREAS, in order for the government agencies to fully, swiftly and in unity address general and specific concerns of migrant workers and overseas Filipinos, there is need for government agencies to have access to related information...”	The establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) to develop and implement the Shared Government Information System for Migration (SGISM) was ordered by the EO in 2000. However, the work started only in August 2010 (According to POEA). Data sharing will involve DFA, DOLE, DOJ and DOT and other agencies. Some initiatives include POEA e-Verification system, Workers Registry, DOLE Skills Data Warehouse, NCMB Online Case Verification Project, OWWA OF membership data and collection reports, POLOs provision of assistance to OFs onsite Yet, there are only 35 MWOs abroad. In Saudi Arabia where OFs are more than one million, officials are shared with other cities and countries like Egypt and Sudan. office sharing is also done among select countries in Europe Efforts on the part of the MOLE-BARM and DMW to share data that is now underway must be pursued to its successful completion. Limitation: While there is no doubt about the applicability of the said Executive Order to benefit OFWs one way or another, its implementation at the local leaves

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Executive Order No. 203 - Establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee to develop and implement the Shared Government Information System for Migration (IAC-SGISM), 24 Jan 2000		much to be desired. The EO secures the inter-agency collaboration and sharing of OFW info at the national level for better design and planning of most appropriate programs and services to address their conditions and vulnerabilities. How this shared information system for migration worked during the pandemic, which is a test of the system, remains a lingering question. The pandemic seemed to have underlined that not only information at the national (macro) level is necessary, but rather information at the local (micro) level as well as the pandemic hit the individual OFWs and their families directly The health dimension of OFWs seemed to have not been included in the shared information system for migration, which probably would have assisted the agencies much better in terms of effectiveness and efficiency in dealing with cases of COVID-19 and other related diseases among OFWs during this medical crisis.
RA No. 9189 - Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003	Section 6. Personal Overseas Absentee Registration. – Registration as an overseas absentee voter shall be done in person. Qualified citizens of the Philippines abroad who failed to register under Republic Act No. 8189, otherwise known as the “The Voters Registration Act of 1996”, may personally apply for registration with the Election Registration Board of the city or municipality where they were domiciled immediately prior to their departure from the Philippines, or with the representative of the Commission at the Philippine	The system of voting overseas, although now electronically assisted, is still not perfect, if not absent, in areas far from the center. Not all OFWs are registered and are not able to cast their vote. For other OFWs, especially those in the Middle East, when elections are held on a non-day off, they cannot vote. Transportation expenses are also a hindrance to their participation in voting.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	embassies, consulates and other foreign service establishments that have jurisdiction over the locality where they temporarily reside. Subject to the specific guidelines herein provided, the Commission is hereby authorized to prescribe additional procedures for overseas absentee registration pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 8189, whenever applicable, taking into strict consideration the time zones and the various periods and processes herein provided for the proper implementation of this Act. The embassies, consulates and other foreign service establishments shall transmit within (5) days from receipt the accomplished registration forms to the Commission, after which the Commission shall coordinate with the Election Officer of the city or municipality of the applicant's stated residence for verification, hearing and annotation in the permanent list of voters.	
RA No. 11315 - Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Act of 2019	Creation of Quezon City Community-Based Monitoring System Coordinating Board (QC CBMS-CB) https://quezoncity.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/EO-8-S-22-Creation-of-Quezon-City-Community-Based-Monitoring-System-Coordinating-Board-QC-CBMS-CB.pdf CBMS is an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process. in the process. The provincial city / municipal coordinating board is responsible in overseeing CBMS operations in their respective locality, ensuring logistic and other requirements are in place prior and	The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall serve as the lead agency in the implementation of Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and shall monitor the data collection by cities and municipalities to ensure adherence to official concepts, definitions and standards of poverty statistics. It involves the generation of data at the local level which serves as a basis in targeting households in planning, budgeting and implementation of government programs geared towards poverty alleviation and economic development. This system merges the methodologies used in data collection activities of all national agencies.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Lucena City (Quezon Province) Ordinance No. 2769 s. 2021 – Creating the Lucena City Migrant Resource Center (MRC), 27 Sep 2021	Section 4. Functions, duties and responsibilities of the Lucena City Migrant Resource Center. The Lucena City Migrant Resource Center (MRC) shall have the following powers and functions: A). Information 1. To gather information on a range of topics, such as relevant laws and procedures relating to migration and migrants' rights and responsibilities, as well as the ability to keep up with any changes to these procedures. 2. To establish and maintain a database pertaining to a master list of OFWs residing in Lucena City, classified according to occupation, job category, civil status, gender, by country of destination, including visa classification, name, address, and contact number of the employer. 3. To provide information on the costs of remittances and engage with providers directly to advocate for reductions in the costs of transfers. 4. To facilitate the use of remittances for productive investments by providing information on opportunities for making such investments like comprehensive information on philanthropic investment opportunities in the city for migrants and their families; and information on business-related investment opportunities for returnees and migrants. 5. To provide information for	Migrant Resource Center is established in Lucena City. This can be a model of other cities in Region 4A

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Lucena City (Quezon Province) Ordinance No. 2769 s. 2021 – Creating the Lucena City Migrant Resource Center (MRC), 27 Sep 2021	employment abroad, OWWA benefits and other OFW concerns. 6. To launch massive information campaign against illegal recruitment in the entire city B). Program and policy-formation 1. To formulate and implement policies, plans and programs for the promotion of the welfare of OFWs. 2. To coordinate the services of the Local Government Unit, the DFA, DOLE, POEA, NRCO, DSWD, DTI, OWWA, and TESDA and such other necessary services and counseling of non-government and community-based organizations and people's organizations for OFWs and their families. 3. To integrate the various programs and services of the city government to the inclusion of our OFWs and serve as intermediary of all programs and services for OFWs and their families in Lucena City; 4. To integrate the migrant workers' issues and concerns in the development plan of the City of Lucena. 5. To institutionalize an OFW Day in recognition of the outstanding contribution of OFWs in Lucena City. C. Local benefits and services: 1. To provide legal services on matters concerning the welfare of the OFW and their families; 2. To provide social benefits for OFWs like disability, death and burial benefits due to natural causes or accident while working overseas; 3. To provide education, scholarship, and training assistance to OFW-dependents through the Dalubhasaan ng Lungsod ng Lucena and Lucena Manpower and Skills Training Center; 4. To assist in the repatriation of distressed OFWs with psycho-social counseling, stress debriefing, and transport services for their onward travel to their respective	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	homes in Lucena City; 5. To assist in the organization, development, and strengthening of associations of OFWs in Lucena; 6. To facilitate reintegration of returning Lucena OF by providing assistance concerning livelihood, entrepreneurship, savings, investments and financial literacy; 7. To offer other services to OFWs such as predeparture and pre employment trainings and anti-illegal recruitment seminars Whereas, the establishment of OFW help desk will greatly benefit the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and their families in Lucena City;	
Zamboanga City Executive Order No. BC 570-2020 - Guidelines for Returning Overseas Filipinos and Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs)/ Inbound Travellers, 5 Jun 2020	An act providing guidelines for returning overseas Filipino and locally stranded individuals / inbound travelers	Guidelines for returning overseas Filipinos and locally stranded individuals / inbound travelers
RA No. 10364 - Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 (amending RA No. 9208 of 2003)	Section 16 (c). Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – shall ensure the strict implementation and compliance with the rules and guidelines relative to the employment of persons locally and overseas. It shall likewise monitor, document and report cases of trafficking in persons involving employers and labor recruiters	Limitation: There are regions where trafficking in persons, particularly OFs, are rampant. Although several initiatives have been undertaken, the practice continues, especially in Region 9 where OFs go back and forth to Sabah.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10364 - Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 (amending RA No. 9208 of 2003)	Section 16 (e). National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) – shall actively participate and coordinate in the formulation and monitoring of policies addressing the issue of trafficking in persons in coordination with relevant government agencies. It shall likewise advocate for the inclusion of the issue of trafficking in persons in both its local and international advocacy for women's issues. Section 16 (j). Local government units (LGUs) – shall monitor and document cases of trafficking in persons in their areas of jurisdiction, effect the cancellation of licenses of establishments which violate the provisions of this Act and ensure effective prosecution of such cases. They shall also undertake an information campaign against trafficking in persons through the establishment of the Migrants Advisory and Information Network (MAIN) desks in municipalities or provinces in coordination with DILG, Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), NGOs and other concerned agencies. They shall encourage and support community based initiatives which address the trafficking in persons An act establishing a Community-Based Monitoring System and appropriating funds for a CBMS, which is an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2020-075 - Establishment of the DILG OFW Desks and Designation of DILG-OFW Desk Officers at the Regions, Provinces, Highly-Urbanized Cities (HUCs) and Independent Component Cities (ICCs), 23 Apr 2020	OWWA is hereby authorized to issue the certifications it may deem appropriate to the concerned OFWs.” In this regard, all Regional Directors and BARM Minister of Local Government are directed to perform the following: 1. Establish their respective OFW Desks; 2. Designate the Regional, Provincial, HUC and ICC OFW Desk; and 3. Submit the names and contact details of all the designated Regional, Provincial, HUC and ICC OF Desk Officers to the undersigned, through the National Barangay Operations Office for consolidation, the soonest time possible or NLT 26 April 2020. The City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officer shall be the DILG-OFW Desk Officer of the component city and municipality concerned. All designated OFW-Desk Officer are directed to monitor all returning OFWs within their respective areas of jurisdiction and enjoined to perform the following: 1. Immediately coordinate with the Local Chief Executives (LCE) concerned and provide them with the relevant information of the concerned OFW; 2. Ensure that LGUs provide all necessary assistance to OFWs; 3. Monitor the health status of the concerned OFW, through the City/Municipal Health Workers, Barangay Health Workers and/or the	The main idea is to make the LGU responsive to the needs of the OFWs and the family members they left behind. Highly Urbanized Cities and a few Provinces and towns have established DILG OFW Desks, while some have delegated it to the Public Employment Service Office (PESO). An offshoot of this issuance is the creation of a one-stop shop for OFWs where all the information and needs of OFWs that may be addressed by the LGUs and local counterparts of line agencies may be pooled under this OFW Desk for easy access. This DILG Memorandum Circular calling for the formation of OFW Desk in each LGU may have given impetus to LGU-DMW Memorandum of Agreement. Quezon City recently launched this partnership. The same is what happened in Calamba, Laguna and in San Fernando, Pampanga in Central Luzon. The general purpose of this tie-up is to ensure mechanisms which will guarantee LGU-DMW cooperation in matters affecting OFWs. Limitation: In most cases, the OFW Desk functions are assumed by the Public Service & Employment Office, an adjunct of the Department of Labor & Employment. To whom the functions as indicated in the Memorandum

