



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6184

BY REPRESENTATIVES BONOAN-DAVID, CLIMACO, LOPEZ (C.J.), SARMIENTO (C.), ARROYO (D.), DE JESUS, CASIÑO, ESCUDERO, ESPINA, COLMENARES, MARIANO, BULUT-BEGTANG, DEL MAR, PALATINO, TINIO, GARBIN, SARMIENTO (M.), SY-ALVARADO, CASTELO, CHIPECO, ONG, HERRERA-DY, DE VENECIA, PONCE-ENRILE, APOSTOL, FARIÑAS, RAMOS, ACOP, SACDALAN, CERAFICA, DY, CELESTE, PANOTES, AUMENTADO, GOLEZ (R.), CALIMBAS-VILLAROSA, RIVERA, LACSON-NOEL, LEONEN-PIZARRO, GARIN (S.), ALMARIO, GARCIA (P.J.), ALCOVER, PIAMONTE, COJUANGCO (E.), PAYUYO, BARZAGA, SALIMBANGON, CABALUNA, CUA, AGLIPAY, MALAPITAN, ROMUALDEZ, ROBES, ENVERGA, OBILLO, AQUINO, FLORES, ORTEGA (F.), FORTUNO, ARAGO, PADILLA, VILLAFUERTE, ALVAREZ (A.), ANGPING, LAGDAMEO (A.), GULLAS, OCAMPO, FERRER (A.), NAVA, JALOSJOS (S.), SAN LUIS, TINGA, MERCADO-REVILLA, TIENG, LAPUS, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO (G.), MELLANA, DAYANGHIRANG, PUNO, MERCADO (R.), TY, CERILLES, FERNANDEZ, FUENTEBELLA, PAEZ, VELARDE, PALMONES, MATUGAS, CO, BATOCABE, MENDOZA (M.), PACQUIAO, BIRON, PICHAY, LOYOLA, BAGATSING, GARAY, LOPEZ (C.), VALENCIA, PING-AY, ROMARATE, GARIN (J.), GARCIA-ALBANO, CAJAYON, BICHARA, OCAMPOS, DUAVIT, ECLEO, MAGSAYSAY (M.), GARCIA (A.), SAKALURAN, COSALAN, GO (A.), TOMAWIS, MENDOZA (R.), HATAMAN-SALLIMAN, ABAYA, TEODORO, RELAMPAGOS, QUIMBO, CASTRO, RODRIGUEZ (I.), BAGUILAT, TING, MAGSAYSAY (E.), BONDOC, ANGARA, CANONIGO, CRISOLOGO, BATAOIL, TUPAS, VILLAR, MARAÑON, ALVAREZ (M.), BERNOS, CORTUNA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), MADRONA, EMANO, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, YAP (S.), CALIXTO-RUBIÁNO, ZAMORA-APSAY, TUGNA AND FERRIOL, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2173

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE
ACT OF 2000"

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

1 SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of Republic Act No. 8972 are hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the
4 State to promote the family as the foundation of the nation,
5 strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development.
6 Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of
7 services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by
8 the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),
9 the Department of Health (DOH), the [Department of Education,
10 Culture and Sports (DECS)] **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
11 **(DEPED)**, the Department of the Interior and Local Government
12 (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the
13 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
14 (TESDA), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the
15 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and other related
16 government and nongovernment agencies."

17 "SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – Whenever used in this
18 Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

19 "(a) 'Solo parent' – any individual who falls under any
20 of the following categories:

21 "(1) A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and
22 other crimes against chastity even without a final conviction of

1 the offender: *Provided*, That the mother keeps [and raises] the
2 child **AND BEARS SOLO AND LONE PARENTING RESPONSIBILITY;**

3 "x x x;

4 "(3) Parent [left solo or alone with the] **WHO BEARS**
5 **SOLE AND LONE PARENTING** responsibility [of parenthood]
6 while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal
7 conviction for at least [one (1) year] **SIX (6) MONTHS;**

8 "x x x;

9 "(5) Parent [left solo or alone with the] **WHO BEARS**
10 **SOLE AND LONE PARENTING** responsibility [of parenthood] due
11 to legal separation or *de facto* separation from spouse for at least
12 [one (1) year] **SIX (6) MONTHS**, as long as [he/she] **THE SOLO**
13 **PARENT** is entrusted with the custody of the children;

14 "x x x;

15 "(7) Parent [left solo or alone with the] **WHO BEARS**
16 **SOLE AND LONE PARENTING** responsibility [of parenthood] due
17 to abandonment of spouse for at least [one (1) year] **SIX (6)**
18 **MONTHS;**

19 "x x x;

20 "(9) Any [other person] **LEGAL GUARDIAN, ADOPTIVE**
21 **OR FOSTER PARENT** who solely provides parental care and
22 support to a child or children; [and]

23 "x x x; **AND**

24 "(11) **PARENT WHO BEARS SOLO AND LONE**
25 **PARENTING RESPONSIBILITY DUE TO THE DISABILITY OR**

1 **INCAPACITY OF THE OTHER SPOUSE TO BE EMPLOYED FOR AT**
2 **LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS;**

3 “x x x”

4 “(e) “Flexible work schedule” - is the right granted to a
5 solo parent employee to vary [his/her] **THE** arrival and departure
6 time **IN THE OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT** without affecting the core
7 work hours as defined by the employer.”

8 **SEC. 2.** Sections 4 and 5 of Republic Act No. 8972 are hereby
9 amended to read as follows:

10 “**SEC. 4. Criteria for Support.** – Any solo parent whose
11 income in the place of domicile falls below the poverty threshold
12 as set by the [National Economic and Development Authority
13 (NEDA)] **NATIONAL STATISTICAL COORDINATION BOARD**
14 **(NSCB)**, [and] subject to the assessment of the [DSWD worker]
15 **CITY OR MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**
16 **OFFICER** in the area **WHERE THE SOLO PARENT RESIDES**, shall
17 be eligible for assistance: *Provided, however,* That any solo
18 parent whose income is above the poverty threshold shall enjoy
19 the benefits mentioned in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Act.”

20 “**SEC. 5. Comprehensive Package of Social Development**
21 **and Welfare Services.** – A comprehensive package of social
22 development and welfare services for solo parents and their
23 families [will] **SHALL** be developed by the [DSWD]
24 **SECRETARY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, IN**
25 **COORDINATION WITH THE DOH, [DECS] DEPED, CHED,**
26 **TESDA, DOLE, NHA, [and] DILG, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE**
27 **AND INDUSTRY (DTI), BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR),**

1 NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
2 (NEDA), CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC), NATIONAL
3 COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES (NCWP), UNION
4 OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (ULAP), [in
5 coordination with] local government units and a
6 nongovernmental organization with proven track record in
7 providing services for solo parents.

8 "x x x."

9 SEC. 3. Sections 8, 9 and 10 of Republic Act No. 8972 are hereby
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "SEC. 8. *Parental Leave*. – In addition to leave privileges
12 under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7)
13 working days every year shall be granted to any solo parent
14 employee who has rendered service of at least [one (1) year] SIX
15 (6) MONTHS."

16 "SEC. 9. *Educational Benefits*. – The [DECS]DEPED,
17 CHED and TESDA shall provide the following benefits and
18 privileges:

19 "(1) Scholarship programs for qualified solo parents and
20 their children in institutions of basic, tertiary and technical[/] OR
21 VOCATIONAL skills education; and

22 "x x x."

23 "SEC. 10. *Housing Benefits*. – Solo parents shall be given
24 allocation in housing projects and shall be provided with liberal
25 terms of payment on said government low-cost housing projects in
26 accordance with housing law provisions prioritizing applicants
27 below the poverty line as declared by the [NEDA]NSCB."

1 SEC. 4. New sections to be denominated as Sections 13, 14, 15 and 16
2 are hereby added to read as follows:

3 **"SEC. 13. *SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD (SPIC).***

4 **– UPON APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPER**
5 **DOCUMENTS, AN IDENTIFICATION CARD APPROVED BY THE**
6 **LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHERE THE SOLO PARENT RESIDES,**
7 **SHALL BE ISSUED TO THE QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT BY THE CITY**
8 **OR MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**
9 **OFFICER."**

10 **"SEC. 14. *ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.* – A SOLO PARENT**
11 **SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL**
12 **BENEFITS:**

13 **"(A) TEN PERCENT (10%) DISCOUNT ON CHILDREN'S**
14 **CLOTHING MATERIALS FOR ALL PURCHASES MADE WITHIN TWO**
15 **(2) YEARS FROM THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD OF THE SOLO**
16 **PARENT;**

17 **"(B) FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT ON BABY'S**
18 **MILK, FOOD AND FOOD SUPPLEMENT FOR ALL PURCHASES**
19 **MADE WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD**
20 **OF THE SOLO PARENT; AND**

21 **"(C) FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT ON ALL**
22 **PURCHASES OF THE SOLO PARENT OF MEDICINES AND OTHER**
23 **MEDICAL SUPPLEMENT OR SUPPLIES THAT SHALL BE USED BY**
24 **THE CHILD WHO ARE FIVE (5) YEARS OLD AND BELOW.**

25 **"TO AVAIL OF THESE BENEFITS, THE SOLO PARENT**
26 **SHALL SUBMIT OR PRESENT THE SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION**
27 **CARD AND THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR OTHER**
28 **EVIDENCE OF ENTITLEMENT.**

29 **"THE CORPORATION OR BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT THAT**
30 **GIVES A DISCOUNT TO THE SOLO PARENT IN ACCORDANCE**

1 WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM THE
2 DISCOUNT GIVEN AS A BUSINESS EXPENSE SUBJECT TO PROPER
3 RECORDING AND DOCUMENTATION.”

4 “**SEC. 15. INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING AND**
5 **MONITORING COMMITTEE.** – A SPECIAL INTER-AGENCY
6 COMMITTEE, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE COMMITTEE,
7 SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE AND MONITOR THE
8 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. THE COMMITTEE WHICH
9 SHALL BE CONSTITUTED WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS UPON THE
10 EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE
11 FOLLOWING:

12 “(A) THE SECRETARY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
13 DEVELOPMENT, AS CHAIRPERSON;

14 “(B) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH OR AUTHORIZED
15 REPRESENTATIVE;

16 “(C) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OR AUTHORIZED
17 REPRESENTATIVE;

18 “(D) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OR
19 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;

20 “(E) THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL
21 GOVERNMENT OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;

22 “(F) THE SECRETARY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY OR
23 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;

24 “(G) THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE;

25 “(H) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON
26 HIGHER EDUCATION;

27 “(I) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CIVIL SERVICE
28 COMMISSION;

1 **“(J) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PHILIPPINE**
2 **COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW);**

3 **“(K) THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TECHNICAL**
4 **EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;**

5 **“(L) THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL**
6 **ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;**

7 **“(M) THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE NATIONAL**
8 **HOUSING AUTHORITY;**

9 **“(N) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL**
10 **COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS (NCMF);**

11 **“(O) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION**
12 **ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP); AND**

13 **“(P) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF LOCAL**
14 **AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS MEMBERS.**

15 **“THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A REGULAR REPORT**
16 **TO CONGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT EVERY**
17 **THREE (3) YEARS FOLLOWING ITS EFFECTIVITY.”**

18 **“SEC. 16. PENALTIES. – ANY PERSON, CORPORATION,**
19 **ENTITY OR AGENCY WHO REFUSES OR FAILS TO PROVIDE THE**
20 **BENEFITS GRANTED TO THE SOLO PARENT IN VIOLATION OF**
21 **THIS ACT SHALL SUFFER THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:**

22 **“(A) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION. – A FINE OF NOT LESS**
23 **THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN**
24 **FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF**
25 **NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)**
26 **YEAR, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT;**

27 **“(B) FOR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS. – A FINE OF NOT**
28 **LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT**

1 NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
2 (P200,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN ONE (1)
3 YEAR BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS, OR BOTH, AT THE
4 DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

5 "IF THE OFFENDER IS A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP,
6 ORGANIZATION OR ANY SIMILAR ENTITY, THE EMPLOYEES AND
7 THE OFFICIALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED SUCH AS THE PRESIDENT,
8 GENERAL MANAGER, MANAGING PARTNER OR OTHER OFFICER
9 CHARGED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF ITS AFFAIRS SHALL BE
10 LIABLE THEREFOR.

11 "IF THE OFFENDER IS AN ALIEN, THE OFFENDER SHALL
12 BE DEPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE
13 WITHOUT FURTHER DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS.

14 "UPON FILING OF AN APPROPRIATE COMPLAINT, AND
15 AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, THE PROPER AUTHORITIES
16 MAY ALSO CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OR REVOCATION OF THE
17 BUSINESS PERMIT, PERMIT TO OPERATE, FRANCHISE AND
18 OTHER SIMILAR PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO ANY BUSINESS
19 ENTITY THAT FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

20 "ANY PERSON WHO MISREPRESENTS STATUS OR
21 FALSIFIES ANY DOCUMENT TO AVAIL OF BENEFITS PROVIDED
22 UNDER THIS ACT OR ANY PERSON WHO ABUSES THE PRIVILEGES
23 GRANTED HEREIN SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH A FINE OF NOT
24 LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE
25 THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) AND
26 IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS.

27 "UPON FINDING BY THE DSWD THAT A DEPARTMENT,
28 AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT,
29 A GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATION

1 (GOCC) OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, HAD VIOLATED ANY
2 PROVISION OF THIS ACT, SANCTIONS UNDER THE
3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, CIVIL SERVICE OR OTHER LAWS MAY BE
4 RECOMMENDED TO THE CSC OR THE DILG AGAINST THE HEAD
5 OF THE AGENCY OR THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE
6 PERSON DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLATION.”

7 SEC. 5. Sections 13 and 14 of Republic Act No. 8972 are hereby
8 renumbered as Sections 17 and 18 and amended to read as follows:

9 “SEC. [13]17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*

10 – [An inter-agency committee headed by] WITHIN NINETY (90)
11 DAYS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT, the DSWD SHALL, in
12 CONSULTATION AND coordination with the DOH, [DECS]
13 DEPED, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA, [and] DILG, DTI, BIR,
14 NEDA, CSC, NCMF, NCIP, PCW AND ULAP, [is hereby
15 established which shall formulate, within ninety (90) days upon
16 the effectivity of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations
17 in consultation with the local government units, nongovernment
18 organizations and people’s organizations.] ISSUE THE NECESSARY
19 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE
20 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.

21 “SEC. [14]18. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary
22 to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the
23 budget of THE concerned government agencies in the ANNUAL
24 General Appropriations Act (GAA) [of the year following its
25 enactment into law and thereafter].

1 **“GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MAY UTILIZE A PORTION OF**
2 **THEIR RESPECTIVE BUDGETS FOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**
3 **ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT.**

4 **“FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, GENDER AND**
5 **DEVELOPMENT REFERS TO PROCESSES UNDERTAKEN BY**
6 **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ADDRESS GENDER ISSUES AND**
7 **TRANSFORM THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL**
8 **STRUCTURES OF THE SOCIETY TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY**
9 **AND EMPHASIZE THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF WOMEN AS**
10 **ACTIVE AGENTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND NOT JUST PASSIVE**
11 **RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.”**

12 SEC. 6. Sections 15, 16 and 17 of Republic Act No. 8972 are hereby
13 renumbered as Sections 19, 20 and 21, respectively.

14 SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
15 in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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