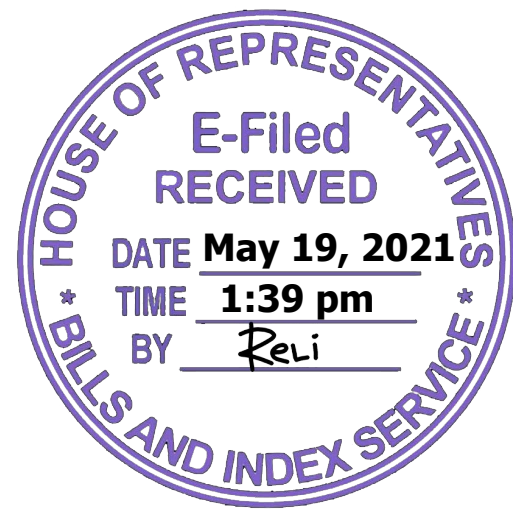


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9370**



Introduced by Representative MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Based on a recent study by the World Health Organization (WHO), Philippines has about 15 million solo parents, 95 percent or more than 14 million of whom are women.

Through Republic Act No. 8972 or the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000, the state provides assistance and support to solo parents who carry the sole burden of providing and caring for their children.

Through this bill, it is hoped to increase the aid that the government is currently providing for solo parents to help them better cope with the challenges of raising their children. Adding to the benefits that are being enjoyed by solo parents with the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000, this proposed legislation also seeks to provide the following:

1. 10% discount on children's clothing;
2. 15% discount on medicine until five (5) years from birth and;
3. 10% discount on tuition fees for primary, secondary and tertiary education for their child.

This bill also aims to give solo parents a Php 50,000 personal tax exemption, allowing them to take home a bigger portion of their income to provide for their family.

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

MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI



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House Bill No. **9370**

Introduced by Representative MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOLO
PARENTS' WELFARE ACT OF 2000, BY PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL
BENEFITS AND PENAL PROVISION FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ACT

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of the Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Definition of Terms - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a) *Solo parent*— any individual who falls under any of the following categories:

1. A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against chastity even without a final conviction of the offender: *Provided*, That the mother keeps and raises the child;
2. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse;
3. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal conviction for a period of at least one (1) year;
4. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner;
5. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or *de facto* from spouse for at least one (1) year, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;
6. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to the declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a church, provided he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

7. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of spouse for at least one (1) year;
8. Unmarried mother/father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child/children instead of having others care for them or giving them up to a welfare institution;
9. Any other person who solely provides parental care and support to a child or children, **PROVIDED SAID PERSON WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN**; and
10. Any family member who assumes the responsibility as the head of the family as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance or prolonged absence of the parents or solo parent.

A change in the status or circumstance of the parent claiming benefits under this Act, such that he/she is no longer left alone with the sole responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility for these benefits. **SAID BENEFITS SHALL SEIZE TO BE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF THE YEAR WHEN THE PARENT WAS LAST DEEMED A SOLO PARENT AS DEFINED BY THIS ACT. PROVIDED, THAT, A SINGLE PARENT WHO IS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE CHILD'S OTHER PARENT SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS UNDER SECTION 12-A OF THE ACT.**

b) *Children* — [refer to] those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical defect/disability.

c) *Parental Responsibility* - with respect to their minor children, shall refer to the rights and duties of the parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive order No. 209, as amended, otherwise known as the "Family Code of the Philippines."

d) *Parental leave* — [shall mean] leave benefits granted to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental duties and responsibilities where physical presence is required.

e) *Flexible work schedule* - is the right granted to a solo parent/employee to vary his/her arrival and departure time, without affecting the core work hours as defined by the employer.

SEC. 2. *Section 8 of the Act is likewise amended to read as follows:*

"Section 8. Parental Leave - In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days **WITH PAY** every year

shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered service of at least one (1) year.”

SEC. 3. *There shall be created and inserted Section 12-A of the Act to read as follows:*

"SECTION 12-A. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS - IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING BENEFITS, SOLO PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED AS SUCH BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) SHALL LIKEWISE BE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

- 1. TEN PERCENT (10%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF CLOTHING AND CLOTHING MATERIALS FOR THE CHILD MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF UP TO TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH;**
- 2. FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF BABY'S MILK, FOOD, AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH:**
- 3. FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF MEDICINES AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS/SUPPLIES FOR THE CHILD MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH;**
- 4. TEN PERCENT (10%) DISCOUNT FROM PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION TUITION FEES; AND**
- 5. BASIC PERSONAL EXEMPTION FROM INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 50,000.00) IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING EXEMPTION THAT THE SINGLE PARENT MAY CLAIM FOR HIS/HER DEPENDENT CHILD OR CHILDREN.**

COMPANIES OR BUSINESSES FROM WHOM DISCOUNTED PURCHASES ARE MADE AS PER THE IMMEDIATE FOREGOING SECTION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM THE SAID DISCOUNTS AS PART OF THEIR BUSINESS EXPENSE, PROVIDED THAT, THEY MAINTAIN DETAILED AND SEPARATE RECORDS OF SAID PURCHASES."

SEC. 4. *There shall be created and inserted Section 12-B of the Act to read as follows:*

“SECTION 12-B. SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) — AS THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY OF THIS ACT, THE DSWD SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. ISSUANCE OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS (IDS) TO SOLO PARENTS -- THE IDS SHALL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR THE PROVISION OF OTHER BENEFITS INDICATED IN THIS ACT;**
- 2. AN OFFICE OF SOLO PARENTS IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY — THE OFFICE SHALL ALSO SERVE AS THE HUB FOR SOLO PARENTS IN THE AREA, CREATING A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR EACH SOLO PARENTS; AND**
- 3. FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE — THE DSWD SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) FOR THE PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO SOLO PARENTS.”**

SEC. 5. There shall be an inserted and renumbered Section 13 to read as follows:

“SECTION 13. *PENALTIES.* - ANY PERSON OR COMPANY WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT BY DENYING OR HINDERING A SOLO PARENT FROM AVAILING OF ANY OF THE BENEFITS OF THIS ACT SHALL BE PENALIZED BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 50,000.00) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION; ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 100,000.00) FOR THE SECOND VIOLATION; AND TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 200,000) FOR THE THIRD VIOLATION.

IN ADDITION TO SAID FINE, THE SAID BUSINESS MAY BE ORDERED CLOSED BY THE APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY.”

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Inter-Agency Committee created by the Act shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause* - Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other instances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,