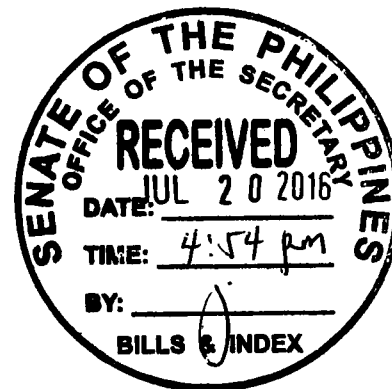


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
S.B. No. 715

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Raising children and nurturing a healthy family is a major challenge to parents and takes a great deal of time, effort, patience, and learning. For solo parents, the challenge is even more daunting.

To make the situation worse, the financial burden as breadwinner adds to the stress and pressure of solo parents. As such, this measure seeks to amend Republic Act No. 8972 or the Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000 to add benefits for solo parents, increase penalties for non-compliance, and enhance the effectiveness of the law's implementation.

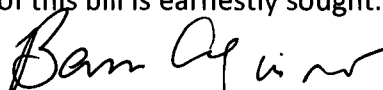
Through these amendments, solo parents will be awarded a 10% discount on clothing for their child and a 15% discount on baby's milk and food up to two years from childbirth.

A 15% discount from medicine and medical supply purchases until 5 years from childbirth as well as a 10% discount from tuition fees will also be awarded.

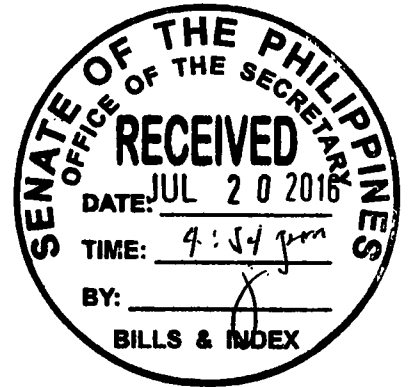
Lastly, a personal tax exemption of Php50,000 can be claimed by single parents, allowing them to take home a larger portion of their income to invest in their family's future.

Let us give them the support they need to provide a bright future for families of solo parents.

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


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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

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

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

4 a) *Solo parent* - any individual who falls under any of the following
5 categories:

6 1. A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other
7 crimes against chastity, even without a final conviction of
8 the offender: *Provided*, That the mother keeps and raises
9 the child;

10 2. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of
11 parenthood due to death of spouse;

12 3. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of
13 parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving
14 sentence for a criminal conviction for a period of at least
15 one (1) year;

16 4. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of
17 parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of
18 spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner;

19 5. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of
20 parenthood due to legal separation or *de facto* from spouse
21 for at least one (1) year, as long as he/she is entrusted with
22 the custody of the children;

23 6. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of

1 parenthood due to declaration of nullity or annulment of
2 marriage as decreed by a court or by a church, provided
3 he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

4 7. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of
5 parenthood due to abandonment of spouse for at least one
6 (1) year;

7 8. Unmarried mother/father who has preferred to keep and
8 rear her/his child/ children instead of having others care
9 for them or giving them up to a welfare institution;

10 9. Any other person who solely provides parental care and
11 support to a child or children, **PROVIDED SAID PERSON**
12 **WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN;**
13 **AND**

14 10. Any family member who assumes the responsibility as
15 the head of the family as a result of the death,
16 abandonment, disappearance or prolonged absence of the
17 parents or solo parent.

18
19 A change in the status or circumstance of the parent claiming
20 benefits under this Act, such that he/she is no longer left alone with
21 the sole responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility
22 for these benefits. **SAID BENEFITS SHALL SEIZE TO BE AVAILABLE BY**
23 **THE END OF THE YEAR WHEN THE PARENT WAS LAST DEEMED A**
24 **SOLO PARENT AS DEFINED BY THIS ACT. PROVIDED, THAT, A SINGLE**
25 **PARENT WHO IS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE CHILD'S OTHER**
26 **PARENT SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS UNDER**
27 **SECTION 12-A OF THE ACT.**

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

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

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

40 e) *Flexible work schedule* - is the right granted to a solo parent/

1 employee to vary his/ her arrival and departure time, without
2 affecting the core work hours as defined by the employer.

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

4 "Section 8. Parental Leave - In addition to leave privileges under
5 existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days
6 **WITH PAY** every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee
7 who has rendered service of at least one (1) year."

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

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

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

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

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

3
4 **"SECTION 12-B. SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND**
5 **DEVELOPMENT (DSWD). – AS THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY OF THIS ACT, THE**
6 **DSWD SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- 7
8 **1. ISSUANCE OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS (IDS) TO SOLO PARENTS – THE IDS SHALL**
9 **SERVE AS A BASIS FOR THE PROVISION OF OTHER BENEFITS INDICATED IN THIS**
10 **ACT;**
11 **2. AN OFFICE OF SOLO PARENTS IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY –**
12 **THE OFFICE SHALL ALSO SERVE AS THE HUB FOR SOLO PARENTS IN THE AREA,**
13 **CREATING A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR EACH SOLO PARENTS; AND**
14 **3. FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE – THE DSWD SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE**
15 **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) FOR THE PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL**
16 **ASSISTANCE TO SOLO PARENTS."**

17
18 **SEC. 5.** There shall also be inserted and renumbered Section 13 to read
19 as follows:

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

28 **IN ADDITION TO SAID FINE, THE SAID BUSINESS MAY BE ORDERED**
29 **CLOSED BY THE APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY."**

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

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

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

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

4 *Approved,*