

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

SENATE

'17 DEC -6 P4:49

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 191

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Submitted by the Committees on Youth; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance on DEC - 6 2017.

Re: Senate Bill No. 1629

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 313, 343 and 1426

Sponsor: Senator Joel Villanueva

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Youth; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 313, introduced by Senators Angara and Villanueva, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR NEW GRADUATES OF COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS OFFERING TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL COURSES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NEW GRADUATES'"

Senate Bill No. 343, introduced by Senators Poe and Ejercito, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FRESH GRADUATES BY WAIVING
GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH
DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT"**

Senate Bill No. 1426, introduced by Senator Villanueva and Binay, entitled:

**"AN ACT
WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES ON THE ISSUANCE OF
DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF
FIRST-TIME JOBSEEKERS"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached bill, Senate Bill No. 1629 prepared by the Committees, entitled:

**"AN ACT
WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES ON THE ISSUANCE OF
DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF
FIRST-TIME JOBSEEKERS"**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 313, 343 and 1426, with Senators Sonny Angara, Joel Villanueva, Grace Poe, Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Antonio Trillanes IV, and Loren Legarda as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons:


SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA
Committee on Youth


SEN. ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV
*Committee on Civil Service,
Government Reorganization and
Professional Regulation*

SEN. SONNY ANGARA
Committee on Ways and Means


SEN. LOREN LEGARDA
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SEN. PAOLO BENIGNO AQUINO IV
Committee on Youth


SEN. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO
*Committee on Civil Service
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SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR
Committee on Finance


SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO
Committee on Finance

SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON
Committee on Finance

Members:



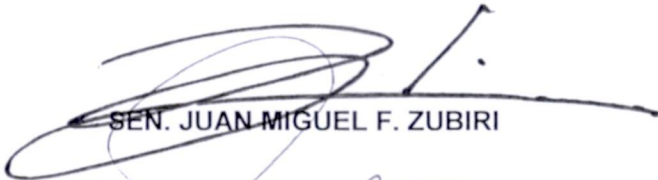
SEN. EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO



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SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON



SEN. FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN



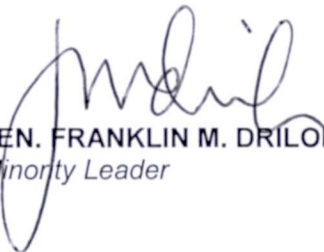
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Ex-Officio Members:

SEN. RALPH G. RECTO
President Pro-Tempore



SEN. VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Majority Leader



SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Minority Leader

SEN. AQUILINO PIMENTEL III
President
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

SENATE

S. B. NO. 1629

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Prepared by the Committees on Youth; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance with Senators Sonny Angara, Joel Villanueva, Grace Poe, Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Antonio Trillanes IV, and Loren Legarda as authors thereof.

AN ACT
WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES
ON THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THE
APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF
FIRST TIME JOBSEEKERS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as "First Time
2 Jobseekers Assistance Act of 2017."

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to recognize
4 the role of the youth in nation building. As such, it shall promote and protect
5 their rights, interests and well-being, by, among others, expanding access to
6 government services to enable young people, especially first time jobseekers,
7 to find employment.

8 **SEC.3. Coverage.** – The provisions of this Act shall apply to all first time
9 jobseekers, which shall include the following:

- 10 a) new graduates from all schools, colleges and universities, and from
11 accredited institutions offering technical-vocational courses. For purposes
12 of this Act, a new graduate is a Filipino who just finished a bachelor's
13 degree from any college or university, or completed a technical-vocational
14 course from any accredited institution in the Philippines, as well as high-
15 school graduates who have completed the K-12 program.

- 1 b) an early school leaver or a person not employed or engaged in education
2 or training or a student taking a leave of absence, from an institution
3 offering college or tertiary education or a from a technical-vocational
4 course, or any person working part-time while enrolled in an academic
5 institution.

6 **SEC. 4. Waiver of Fees and Charges.** – Government agencies and
7 instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations
8 (GOCCs), local government units (LGUs) and government hospitals shall not
9 collect fees or charges from a first time jobseeker: *Provided*, That such fee or
10 charge is paid in connection with the application for and the granting of licenses,
11 proofs of identification, clearances, certificates, or other documents usually
12 required in the course of employment locally or abroad.

13 **SEC. 5. Covered Documentary Requirements.** – No fees shall be
14 collected from first time jobseekers for the following documents:

- 15 (a) Police Clearance Certificate, subject to the restriction in Section 6;
16 (b) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance;
17 (c) Barangay Clearance;
18 (d) Medical Certificate from public hospitals operated by the Department of
19 Health and other government institutions;
20 (e) Birth and/or Marriage Certificate;
21 (f) Tax Identification Number;
22 (g) The Unified Multi-Purpose ID card (UMID), and
23 (h) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be
24 required by employers for first time jobseekers.

25 **SEC. 6. Proof of Graduation, Leave of Absence, or Date of Last**
26 **Completed Studies.** – First time jobseekers availing the benefits provided
27 under this Act shall present the following proof:

- 28 (a) New graduates shall submit a certified true copy of the diploma or
29 certification from the concerned academic, vocational or technical
30 institution that the first time jobseeker has successfully completed the
31 course required or has earned academic units.

32 The diploma or certification shall clearly state the date of graduation or
33 completion of the degree or qualification earned and duly signed by the
34 institution's duly authorized representative.

- 35 (b) Those on leave of absence, or those who are early school leavers or

1 those not employed or engaged in education or training shall present a
2 certification of leave of absence (LOA) or of the date of last enrolment
3 from the concerned academic, vocational or technical institution.

4 The certification shall state clearly the units earned, the date of last
5 enrolment and the reason/s for taking a leave of absence. It shall be
6 signed by the institution's duly authorized representative and the school's
7 guidance counselor or similarly designated faculty member.

8 (c) Those working part-time shall present a certification from their academic
9 institution that they are currently enrolled in their program, and are duly
10 authorized by their academic institution that they are allowed to pursue
11 employment while studying.

12 A photocopy of the diploma or certification required under this Section
13 shall serve as sufficient proof for the concerned government agency to grant
14 the waiver: *Provided*, That the concerned government agency shall have the
15 right to examine the authenticity of the document submitted, and deny the
16 waiver of fees provided under this Act; *Provided*, That the first time jobseeker
17 shall have the opportunity to prove the authenticity of the documents he
18 submitted; *Provided further*, That any person found guilty of fabricating or
19 falsifying any document required under this Section shall be liable under Article
20 172 of the Revised Penal Code.

21 **SEC. 7. One-Time Eligibility.** A first time jobseeker shall only be entitled
22 the benefits provided under this Act only one (1) time within one (1) year from
23 the date of graduation or the leave of absence or enrolment, as indicated in the
24 certification required under Section 5 of this Act.

25 The concerned government agencies shall maintain an annual roster of
26 all individuals who have been issued documents under this Act. This roster shall
27 be submitted to the Department of Information and Communication
28 Technology, which shall compile a database of all beneficiaries of this Act. The
29 database shall be accessible to all the agencies that have granted the waiver
30 of fees and charges to first time jobseekers.

31 However, the government agencies have the discretion to grant additional
32 eligibility if the first time jobseeker is able to prove application to other
33 opportunities for employment through a certification by their potential employer;
34 *Provided*, that the eligibility shall be allowed to be availed of not more than two
35 (2) times.

36 **SEC. 8. One Stop Shop.** – The Public Employment Service Office
37 (PESO) in different provinces, cities and municipalities shall serve as a One
38 Stop Shop for first time jobseekers to secure all documents necessary for their
39 employment application. The PESO shall assist first time jobseekers in
40 securing the required document, certification or clearance and in
41 registering/enrolling first time jobseekers with relevant government agencies
42 such as the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Social Security System, Home
43 Development Mutual Corporation, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation,
44 among others.

1 **SEC. 9. *Exceptions.*** – The waiver of fees and charges provided under
2 this Act shall not include those collected in connection with an application to
3 take a professional licensure examination conducted by the Professional
4 Regulation Commission (PRC), application for a Philippine passport from the
5 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), authentication and red ribbon of
6 documents from the DFA, application for a Career Service Examination with
7 the Civil Service Examination, and application for a driver's license from the
8 Land Transportation Authority (LTO).

9 **SEC. 10. *Inter-agency Monitoring Committee.*** – An inter-agency
10 monitoring committee is hereby created to monitor the compliance of the
11 concerned government agencies granting the waiver of fees and charges as
12 provided under this Act. The Committee shall recommend to the proper
13 authorities the filing of an administrative complaint against any person who
14 refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act.

15 The Committee shall be composed of the following agencies:

- 16 (a) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as chairperson;
17 (b) Chairman of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) or any his/her
18 authorized representatives;
19 (c) Secretary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
20 (TESDA) or any his/her authorized representatives;
21 (d) Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF) or any his/her authorized
22 representatives;
23 (e) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) or any his/her
24 authorized representatives;
25 (f) Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or any his/her
26 authorized representatives; and
27 (g) Chairman of the National Youth Commission (NYC) or any his/her
28 authorized representatives.

29 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The CHED, in
30 consultation with DOLE, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
31 and other relevant stakeholders, shall issue the relevant rules and regulations
32 to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

33 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
34 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall
35 not be affected thereby.

36 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances,
37 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby

1 repealed or modified accordingly.

2 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
3 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

4 Approved,