



SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 86



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 JUL -1 P2:37

Introduced by **SENATOR RICHARD J. GORDON**

**AN ACT AMENDING RA 8972 ALSO KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE
ACT OF 2000, ENHANCING THE PROGRAM FOR SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR
CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Explanatory Note

Article XV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

*"The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation.
Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total
development."*


Pursuant to this constitutional mandate, RA 8972, also known as the Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000 was enacted into law on November 7, 2000 and took effect on November 28, 2000.

The vision of the law is laudible. It provides a system of support for a growing number of Solo Parents estimated at around 3 Million by the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2015, who painstakingly and single-handedly carries the responsibility of raising young Filipinos to be productive members of the society.

This notwithstanding, consultations with various Solo Parents eighteen years after the law was enacted reveal that full effect of the law is yet to be felt. Many Solo Parents feel that RA 8972 is just another dead letter law, while others allege that if ever the law is implemented at all, better privileges are given in certain local government units while some have none.

No less than the DSWD pushes for the amendment of RA 8972, with the end in view of enhancing the program, for the same to reach as many Solo Parents as possible.

This bill seeks to enhance the Solo Parents' Welfare Act by clarifying specific provisions of RA 8292, adding additional benefits thereto and expanding the scope of applicability of specific benefits under the law.



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AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read
2 as follows:

3 "Section 4. *Criteria for Support.* - Any solo parent [whose income in the place
4 of domicile falls below the poverty threshold as set by the National Economic
5 and Development Authority (NEDA) and subject to the assessment of the
6 DSWD worker in the area shall be eligible for assistance: *Provided, however,*
7 That any solo parent whose income is above the poverty threshold shall enjoy
8 the benefits mentioned in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Act.] IDENTIFIED BY THE
9 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) AS SUCH
10 AND EVIDENCED BY A SOLO PARENT ID ISSUED TO THEM BY THE DSWD
11 SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO THE BENEFITS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS ACT.

12 FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE DSWD SHALL AFTER THE CONDUCT OF
13 PROPER VERIFICATION, ISSUE A SOLO PARENT ID TO THE SOLO PARENT
14 APPLICANT WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THE
15 APPLICATION.

16 ANY PERSON WHO COMMITS MISREPRESENTATION, FALSIFICATION
17 OR DEFRAUDS ANOTHER WITH THE INTENT TO UNLAWFULLY SECURE THE
18 BENEFITS OF THIS ACT WHEN THE SAME IS NOT WARRANTED SHALL BE

1 PUNISHED BY THE APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE
2 AS THE CASE MAYBE."

3 SEC. 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as
4 follows:

5 "Section 5. *Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare*
6 *Services.* - A comprehensive package of social development and welfare
7 services for solo parents and their families will be developed by the DSWD,
8 DOH, DECS, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA, DOJ and DILG, in coordination with
9 local government units and a nongovernmental organization with proven track
10 record in providing services for solo parents.

11 The DSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies the implementation of the
12 comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo
13 parents and their families. The package will initially include:

14 (a) Livelihood development services which include trainings on
15 livelihood skills, basic business management, value orientation and the
16 provision of seed capital or job placement.

17 (b) Counseling services which include individual, peer group or family
18 counseling. This will focus on the resolution of personal relationship
19 and role conflicts.

20 (c) Parent effectiveness services which include the provision and
21 expansion of knowledge and skills of the solo parent on early childhood
22 development, behavior management, health care, rights and duties of
23 parents and children.

24 (d) Critical incidence stress debriefing which includes preventive stress
25 management strategy designed to assist solo parents in coping with
26 crisis situations and cases of abuse.

1 (E) 24/7 CHILD CARE SERVICES WHERE SOLO PARENTS CAN
2 ENTRUST THEIR CHILDREN TO AS THEY GO ABOUT THEIR WORK
3 EITHER DURING DAYTIME OR NIGHTTIME SHIFTS.

4 (F) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS FOR
5 SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

6 (G)LEGAL ASSISTANCE ON ACTIONS INVOLVING SUPPORT, AND
7 OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO SECURE THE WELFARE OF THE
8 SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

9 ~~[(e)]~~ (H) Special projects for individuals in need of protection which
10 include temporary shelter, counseling, legal assistance, medical care,
11 self-concept or ego-building, crisis management and spiritual
12 enrichment.

13 SEC. 3. A new Section 12 is inserted to read as follows:

14 "SECTION 12. SOLO PARENT DISCOUNT- QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS SHALL,
15 UPON PRESENTATION OF THEIR SOLO PARENT ID SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A
16 TEN (10%) DISCOUNT ON THE FOLLOWING GOODS AND SERVICES:

17 (1) CLOTHING AND CLOTHING MATERIAL FOR THE CHILD FOR PURCHASES
18 MADE FROM CHILD'S BIRTH UNTIL 12 YEARS OF AGE;

19 (2) BABY'S MILK, FOOD, FOOD SUPPLEMENTS AND SANITARY DIAPERS FOR
20 PURCHASES MADE FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH UNTIL THREE (3) YEARS OF
21 AGE;

22• (3) MEDICINES, VACCINES AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENT, SUPPLIES,
23 ACCESSORIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE CHILD, FOR PURCHASES MADE
24 FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH UNTIL EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE;

25 (4) CHILD'S BASIC NECESSITIES SUCH AS FOOD, TOILETRIES AND
26 GROCERIES UNTIL THE CHILD REACHES EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE;

27 (5) SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE CHILD, FOR PURCHASES MADE FROM THE
28 CHILD'S BIRTH UNTIL TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE;

1• (6) TUITION FEES FROM ELEMENTARY UNTIL COLLEGE LEVEL IN BOTH
2 PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS, ON
3 TOP OF ANY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS, IF ANY;

4• (7) HOSPITAL BILL OF THE SOLO PARENT OR HIS/HER CHILD IF ADMITTED
5 FOR MEDICAL CARE AND ATTENTION, BOTH IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
6 HOSPITALS;

7 (8) CONSULTATION AND LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC FEES AND PURCHASE
8 OF MEDICINES FOR SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS;

9• (9) TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR INTER-REGIONAL OR INTER-PROVINCIAL
10 TRAVELS AIRFARE, SHIPPING AND BUS FARE WHEN THE SOLO PARENT IS
11 TRAVELLING WITH CHILD

12 SEC. 4. A new Section 12 is inserted to read as follows:

13 "SECTION 13. SOLO PARENTS IDENTIFIED IN SEC. 3(A)(10) AND WHO
14 ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A HEAD OF THE FAMILY AS A RESULT OF
15 THE DEATH, ABANDONMENT, DISAPPEARANCE OR PROLONGED ABSENCE OF
16 THE PARENTS OR SOLO PARENT SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ELECT
17 CHILDREN OR PERSONS EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OLD AND ABOVE WHO ARE
18 PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY INCAPACITATED, UNDER THEIR CARE, AS THEIR
19 BENEFICIARIES IN SSS, GSIS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE
20 WELFARE, RETIREMENT AND PENSION PROGRAMS.

21 SEC. 5. All other sections in RA 8792, not heretofore amended are renumbered
22 accordingly.

23 SEC. 6. *Appropriation.*- For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this
24 law, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act
25 of the year following the effectivity of this Act and in the General Appropriations Act
26 in the years thereafter such amount as maybe necessary to finance this program,
27 which shall be included in the yearly appropriations for the Department of Health.

28 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*- If any provision of this act is subsequently
29 declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain
30 in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and
2 regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
3 this act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
5 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6
7 Approved,