

SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 307

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Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel 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**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Being a parent and raising a child is a herculean task that needs a lot of time, effort and resources. The task is even more challenging if you have to do all of these alone as a solo parent.

Taking off from the study conducted by the Department of Health and the University of the Philippines in 2007, estimating that 14% - 15% of the then 94 million population are solo parents, the Federation of Solo Parents Luzvimin estimates the number of solo parents in 2018 at around 15 million.

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.

This bill envisions to increase the aid that the government is currently providing for solo parents to help them better cope with the gargantuan 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 10% discount on children's clothing, 15% discount on milk formulas until 2 years from the birth of the child, 15% discount on medicine until 5 years from birth and 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.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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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 terms shall
3 mean:

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 6. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to the
19 declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a
20 church, provided he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

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

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

19
20 b) *Children* — [refer to] those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support
21 who are unmarried, unemployed and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even
22 over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or
23 physical defect/disability.

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

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

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

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

34
35 "Section 8. Parental Leave - In addition to leave privileges under existing laws,
36 parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days **WITH PAY** every year

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

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

5
6 **"SECTION 12-A. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS - IN ADDITION TO THE**
7 **FOREGOING BENEFITS, SOLO PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED AS SUCH**
8 **BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD)**
9 **SHALL LIKEWISE BE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:**

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

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

31
32 **SEC. 4.** *There shall be created and inserted Section 12-B of the Act to read as*
33 *follows:*

34

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

- 4
- 5 **1. ISSUANCE OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS (IDS) TO SOLO PARENTS -- THE**
6 **IDS SHALL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR THE PROVISION OF OTHER BENEFITS**
7 **INDICATED IN THIS ACT;**
 - 8 **2. AN OFFICE OF SOLO PARENTS IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND**
9 **MUNICIPALITY — THE OFFICE SHALL ALSO SERVE AS THE HUB FOR**
10 **SOLO PARENTS IN THE AREA, CREATING A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR EACH**
11 **SOLO PARENTS; AND**
 - 12 **3. FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE — THE DSWD SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE**
13 **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) FOR THE PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL**
14 **ASSISTANCE TO SOLO PARENTS."**

15

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

17

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

26

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

29

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

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

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

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

7

8 *Approved,*