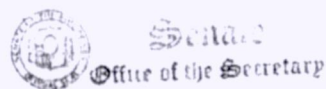


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

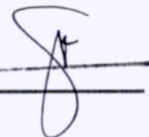


SENATE

'19 AUG 20 P5:39

S. No. 951

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOLO
PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000", PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS
FOR SOLO PARENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8972 entitled, "An Act Providing for Benefits and Privileges to Solo Parents and their Children, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes", otherwise known as the "Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000" was signed into law on November 7, 2000.

The said law was very instrumental to the solo parents in the country, particularly the provision for parental leave which allowed the working solo parents to attend to the welfare of their children, especially regarding their health and education. However, the ever-increasing cost of living makes it difficult for solo parents, whether employed or unemployed to raise their children, and are thus, in need of assistance from the government that will alleviate their financial difficulties in supporting their child's welfare, especially health and education.

No less than the DSWD supports the amendment of Republic Act 8972 to provide additional benefits to solo parents and their children. In fact, the agency, in coordination with the FSPL organized the First National Solo Parents' Summit last July 14, 2018, particularly to push for the amendments on the said law, which is one of the priority legislative measures of DSWD.

In response to this call, this measure seeks to amend the aforementioned law. Among others, this legislative measure seeks to provide discounts from milk formula, food, food supplements, diapers, medicines, vaccines, clothing, and school supplies. It also provides discount for the child's hospital bill and tuition fee.

According to the Federation of Solo Parents Luzvimin (FSPL), some cities such as Quezon City, Angeles, Baguio, and Naga as well as the province of Bulacan have already passed local ordinances granting discounts for solo parents in their purchase of food and in restaurants. Such benefits and more should also be accorded to solo parents in other parts of the country.

Based to a study funded by the World Health Organization (WHO) and conducted by the Department of Health (DOH) and the University of the Philippines – National Institute for Health (UP-NIH) on March 2007, the number of solo parents in the country is around 14 to 15 percent of the estimated 94 million Filipinos, or around 14 million, 95% of which are women. This number is continually increasing, making the passage of this bill urgent and important.

In view of the above, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the "Solo
2 Parents Welfare Act of 2000", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "Sec. 8. *Parental Leave.* – In addition to leave privileges
4 under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7)
5 working days **WITH PAY** every year shall be granted to any solo
6 parent employee who has rendered service of at least [~~one (1) year~~]
7 **SIX (6) MONTHS. THE SEVEN-DAY PARENTAL LEAVE SHALL**
8 **BE NON-CUMULATIVE."**

9 Sec. 2. A new section, which shall be numbered as Section 11-A, is hereby
10 inserted after Section 11 of Republic Act No. 8972 and shall read as follows:

11 **"SEC. 11-A. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR SOLO**
12 **PARENTS. – IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING BENEFITS,**
13 **SOLO PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED AS SUCH**
14 **UNDER THIS ACT SHALL LIKEWISE BE ENTITLED TO THE**
15 **FOLLOWING BENEFITS:**

1 “(1) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL
2 PURCHASES OF BABY’S MILK, FOOD, FOOD SUPPLEMENTS,
3 VITAMINS AND SANITARY DIAPERS MADE WITHIN A
4 PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE CHILD’S BIRTH;

5 “(2) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL
6 PURCHASES OF CLOTHING MATERIALS FOR THE CHILD
7 MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF UP TO TWELVE (12) YEARS
8 FROM THE CHILD’S BIRTH;

9 “(3) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL
10 PURCHASES OF THE CHILD’S BASIC NECESSITIES MADE
11 WITHIN A PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS FROM THE
12 CHILD’S BIRTH;

13 “(4) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL
14 PURCHASES OF THE CHILD’S SCHOOL SUPPLIES MADE
15 WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWENTY ONE (21) YEARS FROM THE
16 CHILD’S BIRTH;

17 “(5) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL
18 PURCHASES OF MEDICINES AND OTHER MEDICAL
19 SUPPLEMENTS, SUPPLIES, ACCESSORIES AND
20 EQUIPMENT, AS PRESCRIBED BY LICENSED MEDICAL
21 PRACTITIONER FOR THE CHILD MADE WITHIN A PERIOD
22 OF EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS FROM THE CHILD’S BIRTH;

23 “(6) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT ON VACCINES,
24 CONSULTATION AND LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC FEES FOR
25 SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN AGED EIGHTEEN
26 (18) YEARS AND BELOW;

27 “(7) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM
28 HOSPITAL BILL OF THE SOLO PARENT AND HIS/HER CHILD
29 IF ADMITTED FOR MEDICAL CARE AND ATTENTION, BOTH
30 IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOSPITALS, FOR A PERIOD OF
31 EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS FROM THE CHILD’S BIRTH;

1 **"(8) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM TUITION**
2 **FEES PER CHILD FROM KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE LEVEL**
3 **IN BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLEGES AND**
4 **UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS, ON TOP OF ANY**
5 **SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS, IF ANY;**

6 **"(9) AT LEAST TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM**
7 **ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:**
8 ***PROVIDED*, THAT THE DISCOUNT MAY ONLY BE AVAILED**
9 **WHEN THE SOLO PARENT AND HIS/HER CHILD OR**
10 **CHILDREN ARE TOGETHER;**

11 **"(10) BASIC PERSONAL EXEMPTION FROM INDIVIDUAL**
12 **INCOME TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS**
13 **(PHP50,000.00) IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING**
14 **EXEMPTION THAT THE SINGLE PARENT MAY CLAIM FOR**
15 **HIS/HER DEPENDENT CHILD OR CHILDREN.**

16 **"(11) TAX AMNESTY AND/OR REDUCTION OF REAL ESTATE**
17 **OR INHERITANCE TAXES OF SOLO PARENTS."**

18 **"COMPANIES OR BUSINESSES FROM WHOM**
19 **DISCOUNTED PURCHASES ARE MADE AS PER THE**
20 **IMMEDIATELY FOREGOING SECTION SHALL BE ENTITLED**
21 **TO CLAIM THE SAID DISCOUNTS AS PART OF THEIR**
22 **BUSINESS EXPENSE: *PROVIDED*, THAT THEY MAINTAIN**
23 **DETAILED AND SEPARATE RECORDS OF SAID**
24 **PURCHASES."**

25 Sec. 3. A new section, which shall be numbered as Section 13-A, is hereby
26 inserted after Section 13 of Republic Act No. 8972 and shall read as follows:

27 **"SEC. 13-A. *PENALTIES*. – ANY PERSON OR COMPANY**
28 **WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT BY**
29 **DENYING OR HINDERING A SOLO PARENTS FROM**
30 **AVAILING OF ANY OF THE BENEFITS OF THIS ACT SHALL**
31 **BE PENALIZED BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY**
32 **THOUSAND PESOS (PHP50,000.00) FOR THE FIRST**

1 VIOLATION; ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
2 (PHP100,000.00) FOR THE SECOND VIOLATION; AND TWO
3 HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP200,000.00) FOR THE
4 THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.

5 "IF THE OFFENDER IS A CORPORATION,
6 PARTNERSHIP OR ORGANIZATION OR ANY SIMILAR
7 ENTITY, THE EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS THEREOF
8 DIRECTLY INVOLVED SHALL INDIVIDUALLY BE HELD
9 LIABLE THEREFOR. IF THE VIOLATOR IS AN ALIEN OR A
10 FOREIGNER, HE/SHE SHALL BE DEPORTED IMMEDIATELY
11 AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE WITHOUT FURTHER
12 DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS.

13 "UPON FILING OF AN APPROPRIATE COMPLAINT AND
14 AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, THE PROPER
15 AUTHORITIES MAY ALSO CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OR
16 REVOCATION OF THE BUSINESS PERMIT, PERMIT TO
17 OPERATE, FRANCHISE AND OTHER SIMILAR PRIVILEGES
18 GRANTED TO ANY BUSINESS THAT FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE
19 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

20 "ANY PERSON WHO CLAIMS TO BE A SOLO PARENT
21 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVAILMENT OF THE BENEFITS
22 UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE PENALIZED WITH A FINE OF
23 NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (PHP10,000.00)
24 BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS
25 (PHP50,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN
26 SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, OR
27 BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

28 Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
29 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

30 Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
31 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
32 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

1 Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3

4 *Approved,*