EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE

COMMITEE REPORT NO. 69

Submitted by the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance on MAR 1 1 2020.

Re: Senate Bill No. 1411

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 86, 164, 206, 238, 307, 951 and 1014.

Sponsor: Senator Risa Hontiveros

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance to which was referred Senate Bill No. 86, introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon, entitled:

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

Senate Bill No. 164, introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros, entitled:

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ACT PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO

Sponsor: Senator Risa Hontiveros
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Senate Bill No. 206, introduced by Senator Christopher Bong T. Go, entitled:

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Senate Bill No. 238, introduced by Senator Vicente C. Sotto III, entitled:

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ACT PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Senate Bill No. 307, introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, entitled:

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

Senate Bill No. 951, introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., entitled:

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

and Senate Bill No. 1014, introduced by Senator Imee R. Marcos, entitled:

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SOLO PARENTS’ WELFARE ACT OF 2000’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
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. 1411 entitled:

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 86, 164, 206, 238, 307, 951 and 1014, with Senators Gordon, Hontiveros, Go, Sotto, Zubiri, Revilla Jr. and Marcos, as authors thereof.
Respectfully submitted:

**Chairpersons:**

SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS
Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality
_Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance
_Member, Committee on Ways and Means

SEN. LEILA M. DE LIMA
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development
_Member, Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Ways and Means; and Finance

SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO
Committee on Ways and Means
_Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance
_Member, Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

SEN. SONNY ANGARA
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_Vice Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means

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Committee on Finance
_Member, Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development
_Member, Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Finance
SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON
Committee on Finance
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SEN. lMEE R. MARCOS
Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance
Member, Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Ways and Means

SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Ways and Means

SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

SEN. CHRISTOPHER BONG T. GO
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Ways and Means

SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN
Committee on Finance
Member, Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Ways and Means

Members:

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Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance

SEN. GRACE POE
Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Ways and Means; and Finance

SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.
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SEN. MANUEL “LITO” M. LAPID
Committees on Ways and Means; and Finance
SEN. MANNY D. PACQUIAO
Committees on Ways and Means; and Finance

SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO
Committee on Finance

SEN. AQUILINO PIMENTEL III
Committee on Finance

SEN. FRANCIS PANGILINAN
Committees on Ways and Means; and Finance

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Majority Leader

SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Minority Leader

SEN. VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President
AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

1 Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8972 otherwise known as "An Act Providing for Benefits and Privileges to Solo Parents and Their Children, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes" is amended to read as follows:

   "Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the "EXPANDED Solo Parents Welfare Act of [2000] 2020."

2 Sec. 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8972 is amended to read as follows:

   "Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development. IT IS ALSO THE OBLIGATION OF THE STATE TO ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND NATIONAL LAWS ON FAMILIES. Towards this
end, it shall develop a comprehensive [program of] **PACKAGE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION** services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), THE **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)**, the Department of Education[Culture and Sports (DECS)] (DEPED), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), THE **DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)**, THE **BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR)**, THE **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC)**, THE **NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA)**, THE **PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW)**, THE **PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH)**, THE **UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (ULAP)**, and other [related] **CONCERNED** government [and nongovernment] agencies [. .] AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WITH **RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS IN PROVIDING SERVICES AND ADVOCACY FOR SOLO PARENTS.**

Sec. 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8972 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. **Definition of Terms.** – Whenever used in this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

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

(1) A [**woman**] **FEMALE** who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against [**chastity**] **PERSONS** even without A final conviction of the offender: **Provided,** That the mother [keeps and raises the child] HAS **THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN AND BEARS THE**
SOLE PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY;

(2) Parent left solo OR alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to [death of spouse] THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

   i. DEATH OF THE SPOUSE;

   ii. [(3) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the] [Spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal conviction for at least one (1)-year];

   iii. [(4) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to] [Physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public OR PRIVATE medical practitioner;]

   iv. [(5) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to] [Legal separation or de facto separation from spouse for at least one (1)-year, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children];

   v. [(6) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to] [Declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court RECOGNIZED BY LAW or by a church as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children]; OR

   vi. [(7) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to] [Abandonment of spouse for at least one (1)-year]

SIX (6) MONTHS.

(3) [(8)] Unmarried mother/father who has [preferred to keep and rear] ACTUAL CUSTODY, SUPPORT, CARE AND EXERCISING SOLE PARENTAL AUTHORITY OVER [her/his] HIS OR HER child[children] instead of having others care for them or give them up to a welfare institution;

(4) SPOUSE OF AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER (OFW);

PROVIDED, THAT THE SAID OFW BELONGS TO THE LOW/SEMI-SKILLED WORKER CATEGORY AND IS AWAY FROM THE PHILIPPINES FOR AN UNBROKEN PERIOD OF TWELVE (12)
MONTHS;

(5) [(9)] Any other person who [solely provides parental care and support to a child or children] BEARS SOLE PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY OVER A CHILD OR CHILDREN, INCLUDING A FOSTER PARENT DULY-RECOGNIZED BY THE DSWD, A LEGAL GUARDIAN APPOINTED BY THE COURT OR A LEGAL SINGLE ADOPTIVE PARENT; OR

(6) [(10)] Any family member who [assumes the] BEARS SOLE PARENTAL responsibility [of head of family] as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance or prolonged absence of the parent[s]/S. [or solo-parent:] IN CASES OF GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE SENIOR CITIZENS WHO HAVE THE SOLE PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY OVER THEIR MINOR OR PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY INCAPACITATED CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN, THEY SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS OF THIS ACT IN ADDITION TO THE BENEFITS GRANTED TO THEM BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257 OR THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2003";

A change in the status or circumstance of the parent, QUALIFIED FAMILY MEMBER OR GUARDIAN claiming benefits under this Act, such that he/she is no longer left alone with the responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility for these benefits.

THE ABSENCE OF A VALID AND LEGAL MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE MOTHER AND FATHER OF A CHILD OR DEPENDENT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLE EITHER INDIVIDUAL TO BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT IF THE FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES DEMONSTRATE THAT PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES ARE SHARED.

(b) "Children OR DEPENDENTS" – FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, refer to those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed and not more than [eighteen (18)]
TWENTY-TWO (22) years of age, or even over [eighteen-(18)] TWENTY-TWO (22) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical defect/disability.

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

(d) "Parental leave" - shall mean leave benefits granted to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental duties and responsibilities where physical presence is required. ALL SOLO PARENTS WORKING IN THE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR SHALL BE QUALIFIED TO A SEVEN-DAY PARENTAL LEAVE WITH PAY.

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

(F) BASIC NECESSITIES - REFER TO RICE, CORN, BREAD, FRESH, DRIED AND CANNED FISH AND OTHER MARINE PRODUCTS, FRESH PORK, BEEF AND POULTRY, MEAT, FRESH EGGS, FRESH AND PROCESSED MILK, FRESH VEGETABLES, ROOT CROPS, COFFEE, SUGAR, COOKING OIL, SALT, LAUNDRY SOAP, DETERGENTS, SANITARY NAPKINS, DIAPERS, DRUGS CLASSIFIED AS ESSENTIAL BY THE DOH, AND OTHER COMMODITIES AS MAYBE CLASSIFIED BY THE DTI AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) ACCORDING TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581 OR THE "PRICE ACT."

Sec. 4. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8972 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 4. Criteria for [Support] ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. – Any solo parent whose income in the place of [domicile] RESIDENCE falls below the poverty threshold as set by the [National
Economic— and— Development— Authority— (NEDA)] PHILIPPINE
STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA) and subject to the assessment of the
Local Social Welfare and Development
Officer in the area WHERE THE SOLO PARENT RESIDES shall be
eligible for ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL assistance RESERVED FOR THE
POOR AND INDIGENT SOLO PARENTS AS DETERMINED BY THE
Proper Government Agencies: Provided, [however, That any
solo parent whose income is above the poverty threshold shall enjoy the
benefits mentioned in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Act.] THAT ANY SOLO
PARENT, REGARDLESS OF THE INCOME BRACKET OR FINANCIAL
STATUS SHALL ENJOY THE BENEFITS UNDER THE
COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES,
SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES,
LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, COUNSELLING SERVICES,
PARENT EFFECTIVENESS SERVICES, CRITICAL INCIDENCE
STRESS DEBRIEFING AND OTHER SOCIAL PROJECTS
MENTIONED IN SECTION 5 OF THIS ACT.”

Sec. 5. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8972 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 5. Comprehensive Package of Social [Development— and
Welfare] PROTECTION Services. — A comprehensive package of social
[development and welfare] PROTECTION services for solo parents and
their families [will] SHALL be developed by the DSWD, DOH, [DECS]
DEPED, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA [and] DOJ, DTI, BIR, CSC, NEDA,
PCW, PHILHEALTH, ULAP, DILG, [in coordination with local
government units and a nongovernmental organization with proven track
record in providing services for solo parents:] AND OTHER
CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATION WITH RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS IN
PROVIDING SERVICES TO SOLO PARENTS.
The DSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies the implementation of the comprehensive package of social [development— and—welfare] PROTECTION services for solo parents and their families. The package will initially include:

(a) Livelihood development services which include trainings on livelihood skills, basic business management, value orientation and the provision of seed capital or job placement;[7]

(b) Counseling services which include individual, peer-group or family counseling. This will focus on the resolution of personal relationship and role conflicts[.];

(c) Parent effectiveness services which include the provision and expansion of knowledge and skills for the solo parent on early childhood development, behavior management, health care, rights and duties of parents and children[.];

(d) Critical incidence stress debriefing which include preventive stress management strategy designed to assist solo parents in coping with crisis situations and cases of abuse[.];

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

(F) LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE.”

Sec. 6. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 8972 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 7. Work Discrimination. — No employer shall discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her status. EMPLOYERS MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THEIR EMPLOYEES FOR A TELECOMMUTING PROGRAM, AS PROVIDED IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘TELECOMMUTING ACT’,
PROVIDED THAT SOLO PARENTS SHALL BE GIVEN PRIORITY BY THEIR EMPLOYER.”

Sec. 7. A new section 8 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. ACCESS TO CHILD CARE. — NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED (300) EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCS), AND PRIVATE EMPLOYERS WITH TWO HUNDRED (200) OR MORE EMPLOYEES, SHALL ESTABLISH DAY CARE CENTERS TO ACCOMMODATE THE CHILDREN OF THEIR EMPLOYEES AGED FIVE (5) YEARS AND BELOW, WHICH SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR FREE TO ITS EMPLOYEES, WITH PRIORITY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SOLO PARENTS AS DEFINED UNDER THIS ACT. THESE SERVICES SHALL BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE WORKPLACE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, OR IN A NEARBY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION.”

Sec. 8. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. [8] 9. Parental Leave. – In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered service of at least [one (1)-year] SIX (6) MONTHS. THIS BENEFIT MAY BE AVAILED IN BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR, REGARDLESS OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS.”

Sec. 9. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. [9] 10. Educational Benefits. – The [DECS] DEPED, CHED and TESDA shall provide the following benefits and privileges:

(1) Scholarship AND/ OR GRANTS [programs] for qualified solo parents and their children in institutions of basic, [tertiary and technical/skills
education] HIGHER AND TECHNICAL/ VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING; and
(2) Nonformal education programs appropriate for solo parents and their children.
The [DECS] DEPED, CHED and TESDA shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this program.”

Sec. 10. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. [10] 11. Housing Benefits. — Solo parents shall be given PREFERENCE AND allocation in housing projects and shall be provided with liberal terms of payment on said government low-cost housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions prioritizing applicants below the poverty line as declared by the [NEDA] PSA.”

Sec. 11. Sections 11 and 12 of Republic Act No. 8972 are hereby renumbered as Sections 12 and 13, respectively.

Sec. 12. A new section 14 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

A. BARANGAY CERTIFICATION THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY FOR THE LAST SIX (6) MONTHS PRECEDING THE APPLICATION;
B. CERTIFICATION FROM THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR COURT AS PROOF OF BIRTH OF CHILD/CHILDREN, DEATH OF PARENTS OR SPOUSE, DECREE OF ANNULMENT, DECLARATION
OF NULLITY, OR LEGAL SEPARATION, OR ANY FORM OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, STATUS AS OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER, AND OTHER DOCUMENTARY SUPPORT TO ATTEST THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT QUALIFIES THE APPLICANT AS A SOLO PARENT;

THE SPIC SHALL BE ISSUED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM APPLICATION THEREOF AND SHALL BE VALID FOR ONE (1) YEAR UPON ISSUANCE, SUBJECT TO RENEWAL.”

Sec. 13. A new Section 15 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 15. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS. — A SOLO PARENT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

A) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF INFANT FORMULA, FOOD, FOOD SUPPLEMENTS AND SANITARY DIAPERS FOR PURCHASES MADE FROM CHILD’S BIRTH UNTIL THREE (3) YEARS OF AGE: PROVIDED, THAT THE DISCOUNT ON INFANT FORMULA CAN ONLY BE AVAILED OF WHEN THE SOLO PARENT IS NOT THE MOTHER;

C) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF MEDICINES, VACCINES AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS, SUPPLIES, ACCESSORIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE CHILD, AS PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, FOR PURCHASES MADE FROM THE CHILD’S BIRTH UNTIL TWENTY TWO (22) YEARS OF AGE;

D) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF THE CHILD’S BASIC NECESSITIES;

E) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM TUITION FEES PER CHILD FROM KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE LEVEL IN BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS, ON TOP OF ANY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS IF ANY;
F) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM HOSPITAL BILL OF
THE SOLO PARENT'S CHILD IF ADMITTED FOR MEDICAL CARE
AND ATTENTION, BOTH IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOSPITALS;
G) TAX AMNESTY AND/OR REDUCTION OF REAL ESTATE OR
INHERITANCE TAXES OF SOLO PARENTS;
H) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT ON CONSULTATION AND
LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC FEES AND PURCHASE OF MEDICINES
FOR SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN;
I) BASIC PERSONAL EXEMPTION FROM INDIVIDUAL INCOME
TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00)
IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING EXEMPTION THAT THE SOLO
PARENT MAY CLAIM FOR THEIR CHILDREN;
J) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PRIVATE AND
PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE
DISCOUNT CAN ONLY BE AVAILED WHEN THE SOLO PARENT AND
CHILDREN ARE TOGETHER. COMPANIES AND BUSINESS
ESTABLISHMENTS, WHERE THE SAID DISCOUNTS WERE
AVAILED, SHALL BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM SAID DISCOUNTS AS
PART OF THEIR BUSINESS EXPENSE: PROVIDED, THAT THEY
MAINTAIN A DETAILED AND SEPARATE RECORDS OF THE
DISCOUNTED PURCHASES."

Sec. 14. A new Section 16 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 16. CREATION OF THE SOLO PARENTS INTER-
AGENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE. — THE SOLO PARENTS INTER-
AGENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE IS HEREBY CREATED TO
COORDINATE AND MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
ACT. THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPRISED OF THE
FOLLOWING AGENCIES:
A) DSWD, AS CHAIR;"
B) DILG, AS CO-CHAIR;
C) DOH;
D) DOJ;
E) DEPED;
F) CHED;
G) TESDA;
H) NHA;
I) DOLE;
J) BIR;
K) PHILHEALTH;
L) AT LEAST TWO (2) NON GOVERNMENT OR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION WITH PROVEN CREDENTIALS IN ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE, AS WELL AS PROVIDING SERVICES TO SOLO PARENTS. 

THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, FOLLOWING ITS EFFECTIVITY.”

Sec. 15. A new Section 17 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

“SEC. 17. SOLO PARENTS AFFAIRS OFFICE. – A SOLO PARENT AFFAIRS OFFICE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT. IN LINE WITH THIS REQUIREMENT, A SOLO PARENTS HELP DESK SHALL BE PLACED IN EVERY BARANGAY FOR THE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.”

Sec. 16. A new Section 18 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

“SEC. 18. NATIONAL SOLO PARENTS DAY AND WEEK. – TO COMMEMORATE THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF EVERY SOLO PARENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE THIRD WEEK AND THIRD
Saturdays of April of every year are hereby declared as Solo Parents Week and National Solo Parents Day, respectively.”

Sec. 17. A new Section 19 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

“SEC. 19. PENALTIES. – ANY PERSON, CORPORATION, ENTITY OR AGENCY WHICH REFUSES OR FAILS TO PROVIDE THE BENEFITS GRANTED TO SOLO PARENTS IN VIOLATION OF THIS ACT, OR DISCRIMINATES AGAINST SOLO PARENTS IN EMPLOYMENT HIRING, SHALL SUFFER THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:

1) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION - A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

2) FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION - A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN ONE (1) YEAR BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT. ANY PERSON WHO MISINTERPRETS THE STATUS OR FALSIFIES ANY DOCUMENT TO AVAIL OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT OR ANY PERSON WHO ABUSES THE PRIVILEGES GRANTED HEREIN SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH A FINE NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) AND IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.
IF THE OFFENDER IS A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP OR ORGANIZATION OR ANY SIMILAR ENTITY, THE EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS THEREFORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED SHALL INDIVIDUALLY BE HELD LIABLE THEREFORE.

IF THE VIOLATOR IS AN ALIEN OR A FOREIGNER, HE SHALL BE DEPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE WITHOUT FURTHER DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS.

UPON FILING OF AN APPROPRIATE COMPLAINT, AND AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, THE PROPER AUTHORITIES MAY ALSO CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OR REVOCATION OF THE BUSINESS PERMIT, PERMIT TO OPERATE, FRANCHISE AND OTHER SIMILAR PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO ANY BUSINESS THAT FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE PROVISION OF THIS ACT.

UPON FINDING BY THE SOLO PARENTS SPECIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE THAT A DEPARTMENT, AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT, GOCC OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT HAD VIOLATED ANY PROVISION OF THIS ACT, SANCTIONS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, CIVIL SERVICE OR OTHER LAWS MAY BE RECOMMENDED TO THE CSC OR THE DILG AGAINST THE HEAD OF THE AGENCY OR THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE PERSON DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLATION.

ANY PERSON WHO CLAIMS TO BE A SOLO PARENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVAILMENT OF THE BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT, WITH INTENT TO DEFRAUD SHALL BE PENALIZED WITH A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.”
Sec. 18. A new Section 20 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 20. ABUSED, ABANDONED, OR NEGLECTED SOLO PARENTS OR SOLO PARENTS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. – IN CASES WHERE A SOLO PARENT HAD BEEN ABUSED, ABANDONED OR NEGLECTED BY HIS OR HER CO-PARENT, HE OR SHE MAY SEEK THE HELP OF THE DSWD, WHICH, IN TURN, SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE RESPECTIVE BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND/OR POLICE OFFICERS ASSIGNED IN THE NEAREST PNP STATION WHERE THE ABUSED, ABANDONED, OR NEGLECTED PARENT RESIDES, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE. IF THE CO-PARENT IS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED, THE ABUSED, ABANDONED, OR NEGLECTED PARENT SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO RETAIN A PORTION OF THE FORMER’S INCOME, TO BE AGREED UPON BY BOTH PARENTS OR BY A VALID ORDER ISSUED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CHILD."

Sec. 19. A new Section 21 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 21. SPECIAL PROTECTIONS FOR ADOLESCENT PARENTS. – IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, ADOLESCENT PARENTS SHALL ALSO BE PROVIDED WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE DSWD WHICH MAY INCLUDE COUNSELLING AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICES, AND FROM THE DEPED AND TESDA IN THE FORM OF HOME-BASED, IN-SCHOOL, OR TECH-VOCAATIONAL EDUCATION, AS WARRANTED."

Sec. 20. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

interagency committee headed by the DSWD, in coordination with the DOH, DECS, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA, and DILG is hereby established which shall formulate,] [w]Within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act, [the implementing rules and regulations in consultation with the local government units, nongovernment organizations and people’s organizations:] THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SOLO PARENTS SPECIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE, SHALL ISSUE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.”

Sec. 21. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. [14] 23. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of THE concerned government agencies in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). [of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter:] GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MAY ALSO UTILIZE A PORTION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT (GAD) BUDGET TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT ANCHORED ON THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), NEDA AND PCW.”

Sec. 22. Sections 15, 16 and 17 of Republic Act No. 8972 are hereby renumbered as Sections 24, 25 and 26, respectively:

Sec. 23. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
Sec. 24. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 25. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,