

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3598

Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATORS, AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE ACT OF 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parents' Welfare Act was enacted to provide benefits and privileges to solo parents and their children. This was in recognition of the efforts and sacrifices that solo parents must endure in raising and rearing their children.

RA 8972 breathed life to the Constitution's mandate that "the State shall promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development." Thus, to ensure that the law's lofty objectives are attained, the present bill seeks to expand the coverage and benefits given to solo parents. Specifically, these additional benefits include discounts for purchases intended for the child's consumption and increase in the personal exemption of the solo parent for income tax purposes.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3598

Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATORS, AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE ACT OF 2000

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

SECTION 1. An additional provision is inserted to the last paragraph of Section 3 (a) of Republic Act No. 8972 to read as follows:

"A change in the status or circumstance of the parent claiming benefits under this Act, such that he/she no longer left alone with the responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility for these benefits. **PROVIDED THAT, A SINGLE PARENT WHO IS RECEIVING REGULAR SUPPORT FROM THE CHILD'S OTHER PARENT SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS ACT.**"

SECTION 2. There shall be created a new Section to Republic Act No. 8972 to read as follows:

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

1. TEN PERCENT (10%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF CLOTHING MATERIALS FOR THE CHILD FOR PURCHASES MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF UP TO TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH;
2. FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF BABY'S MILK, FOOD AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS FOR PURCHASES MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH;
3. FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF MEDICINES AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS/SUPPLIES FOR THE CHILD FOR THE PURCHASES MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH; AND
4. BASIC PERSONAL TAX EXEMPTION FROM INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING EXEMPTION THAT THE SINGLE PARENT MAY CLAIM FOR HIS/HER DEPENDENT CHILD/CHILDREN."

Succeeding sections shall be renumbered accordingly.

SECTION 3. There shall be created another section after the Appropriations Section of Republic Act No. 8972 to read as follows:

"SECTION 16. PENAL PROVISIONS. – ANY PERSON OR COMPANY WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT BY DENYING OR HINDERING A SOLO PARENT FROM AVAILING ANY OF THE BENEFITS OF THIS ACT SHALL BE PENALIZED BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION; ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) FOR THE SECOND VIOLATION; AND TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) FOR THE THIRD AND SUCCEEDING VIOLATIONS."

Succeeding sections shall be renumbered accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,

