

Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
House of Representatives



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6197**

Introduced by: HON. LORNA C. SILVERIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every year, thousands of fresh graduates add up to the already alarming number of jobseekers in the country. Joining them are early school dropouts who stopped schooling due to financial difficulties. Most of them are determined to have their first jobs here in the country while the rest as overseas contract workers.

In the process, first time job applicants face serious challenges in the accomplishment of various pre-employment documents which include clearances from the Police and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), birth certificate from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Community Tax Certificate, among others.

These fees collected by various government agencies for the issuance of the aforesaid documents entail additional financial burden especially those belonging to lower and middle-income families.

Hence, this bill seeks to unburden first time job applicants from these mandated pre-employment documents which will surely lessen their economic woes, minimize the risk of being unemployed in the long-term and maintain their motivation to actively pursue employment

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


LORNA C. SILVERIO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17th Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6197

Introduced by: HON. LORNA C. SILVERIO

AN ACT WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES ON THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH FIRST TIME JOB APPLICANTS.

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

SEC 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the “First-Time Job Applicants Assistance Act”

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy – It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of young people. Hence, the government has the duty to expand access to government services to enable young people, especially first time job applicants, to find employment.

SEC 3. Waiver of Fees and Charges – All government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), local government units (LGUs) and government hospitals shall not collect fees or charges from a first time job applicant, who can be a fresh graduate, an early school leaver, a dropout or a student taking a leave of absence: Provided, That such fee or charge is paid in connection with the application for and the granting of licenses, proofs of identification, clearances, certificates, or other documents usually required in the course of employment locally or abroad: Provided further, That the application for such license, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other documents is submitted within (1) one year after graduating or taking a leave from high school, college or any technical vocational course in any mode/s of learning.

SEC 4. Covered Documentary Requirements.- The fees and charges collected for the issuance of the following documents which shall be used for solely for employment purposes of first time job applicants shall be waived:

- (a) Police Clearance Certificate
- (b) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance
- (c) Barangay Clearance
- (d) Medical Certificate
- (e) Birth and/or Marriage Certificate
- (f) Tax Identification Number

- (g) Community Tax Certificate
- (h) Certification of Eligibility
- (i) Authentication and Red Ribbon of Documents; and
- (j) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be required by employers.

SEC 5. Proof of Graduation or Leave of Absence – Before the waiver authorized under this Act can be availed of, a certified true copy of the first time job applicant's diploma, certification of leave of absence (LOA) from the concerned academic, vocational or technical institution that the said individual has successfully completed the course required or has earned academic units must be submitted by the applicant.

The diploma or certification should clearly state the date of graduation or completion of the degree or qualification earned and should be signed by the institution's duly authorized representative. Likewise, the leave of absence (LOA) should clearly state the units earned and the reason/s for taking a leave of absence and should be signed by the institution's duly authorized representative and the school's Guidance Counselor.

Such copy of the diploma, the certification, or the leave of absence submitted shall be sufficient for the government agency concerned to grant the waiver: Provided, That any person found guilty of fabricating or falsifying any proof of graduation or leave of absence as described in this section shall be liable under Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code.

SEC 6. Role of the PESO - The Public Employment Service Office (PESO) shall assist first time job applicants, especially those who are experiencing difficulty in securing their proof of graduation or leave of absence.

SEC 7. Exceptions – The fees and charges to be waived shall not include those collected in connection with an application to take the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), application for a Philippine passport from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), application for a Career Service Examination, and application for a driver's license from the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

SEC 8. Administrative Offenses – No government agency or instrumentality shall issue unduly restrictive regulations, which will render nugatory the benefit of the waiver as prescribed under this Act. Such shall constitute an administrative offense punishable under the Administrative Code and other pertinent laws.

SEC 9. Interagency Monitoring Committee – An interagency monitoring committee is hereby created with the Executive Secretary as Chairperson, and the heads of the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Technical Education and Skills Authority, the Department of Finance, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education and other departments whose participation the committee may deem necessary as its members.

The committee shall monitor the compliance of the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, and may recommend to the proper authorities the filing of an administrative complaint against any person who refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act.

SEC 10. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC 11. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 12. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lorna B. Silvestre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lorna" being the most prominent part.