

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7237



Introduced by Representative Evelina Escudero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 8972 otherwise known as the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000, recognizes the legal concept or Family from the traditional definition to that of the present which contemplates a family constituted by a single individual.

It amends Republic Act 8972 otherwise known as the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000 by providing additional support and benefits to solo parents, such as but not limited to discounts from purchases of baby's milk, food and food supplements, clothing and medical supplies.

This bill is being filed not only to lessen the burden of solo parenting but to ensure as well that their children are given the opportunity for a better future.

This proposal may have its effects on businesses, employment and other economic activities, nonetheless, it is still worthy of submission for evaluation and deliberation as all stakeholders may be able to strike a balance between profitability and social responsibility.

In view of the foregoing, this bill is submitted.


EVELINA ESCUDERO

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**AN ACT TO FURTHER EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO SOLO PARENTS
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000**

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8972 otherwise known as the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000 is hereby amended by adding the following definition the after subsection 10 of Section 3. to read as follows:

"Section 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:

xxx

**(11). PARENT LEFT SOLO OR ALONE WITH THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTHOOD DUE TO THE
INVOLUNTARY INABILITY OF THE OTHER SPOUSE TO
HAVE AN EMPLOYMENT FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR.**

A change in the status or circumstance of the parent claiming benefits under this Act, such that he/ she is no longer left alone with the sole responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility for these benefits. Said benefits shall cease to be available by the end of the year when the parent was last deemed a solo parent as defined by this act **PROVIDED, THAT, A SINGLE PARENT WHO IS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE CHILD'S OTHER PARENT SHALL NOT BE**

ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS UNDER SECTION 12-A OF THE ACT.

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

"Section 8. Parental Leave - In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days **WITH PAY** every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered service of at least one (1) year."

SEC. 3. There shall be created and inserted a new section to read as follows:

"SECTION 13. 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 AND CLOTHING MATERIALS FOR THE CHILD 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 MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH; AND

(3) FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF MEDICINES AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS/ SUPPLIES FOR THE CHILD MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH.

SEC. 4. The same law is hereby amended by adding a new section which shall read as follows:

"SECTION 14. SOLO PARENTS ID.- ANY SOLO PARENT AS DEFINED BY LAW AND ITS AMENDATORY PROVISIONS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE ISSUANCE OF A SOLO PARENT ID BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER.

SEC. 5. The same law is hereby amended by adding a new section which shall read as follows:

"SECTION 15. PENAL PROVISIONS. - ANY EMPLOYER WHO FAILS TO PROVIDE THE BENEFITS MENTIONED IN SECTIONS

6,7,8,13 OF THIS ACT SHALL SUFFER THE FOLLOWING PENALTY:

(1) FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT EXCEEDING FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE 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 EXCEEDING TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO YEARS, OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

(3) ANY PERSON WHO ABUSES THE PRIVILEGES HEREIN SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS OR A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00), OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

(4) IF THE VIOLATOR IS A CORPORATION, ORGANIZATION OR ANY SIMILAR ENTITY, THE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF DIRECTLY INVOLVED SHALL BE INDIVIDUALLY LIABLE THEREFORE.

(5) 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 REVOCATION OR CANCELLATION OF THE BUSINESS PERMIT, PERMIT TO OPERATE, FRANCHISE AND OTHER SIMILAR PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO ANY BUSINESSES THAT FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT"

Provided that with the introduction of new sections, Republic Act 8972 is hereby renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 6. The inter-agency committee created under Republic Act 8972 shall formulate the rules to implement this Act in consultation with other government agencies and private organizations.

SEC. 7. All Acts or parts of Acts, executive orders and their implementing rules inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 9. This Act takes effect fifteen days after its complete publication in the Official Gazete or in two (2) newspapers or general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,