

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9444



INTRODUCED BY LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

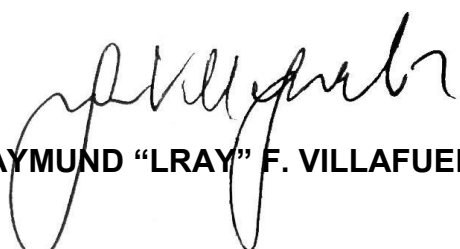
AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11261, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FIRST TIME JOBSEEKERS ASSISTANCE ACT", THEREBY EXTENDING THE WAIVER OF FEES AND CHARGES TO JOBSEEKERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR EMPLOYMENT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

This bill recognizes the significant number of Filipinos who lost jobs in the midst of our battle against COVID-19. Among others, this measure proposes to extend the benefits of Republic Act No. 11261 or the "First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act" to the pandemic-induced unemployed individuals.

In particular, benefits given to first time job seekers on the waiver of fees and charges for government-issued pre-employment documents such as proofs of identification, clearances, and certifications will apply to jobseekers who have lost their employment as an effect of the pandemic. This entails that the loss of job by the jobseeker should be due to authorized causes only since the intention is to benefit those out of work because of poor business conditions.

The extension of the benefits of RA 11261 will be part of our ongoing efforts to assist our fellow Filipinos get back on their feet.

In view of foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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

Section 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 11261, or the "First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3. Waiver of Fees and Charges. - Subject to exceptions provided in Section 8 of this Act, 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 jobseeker: 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 benefit provided under this Act shall only be availed of once.

THE BENEFIT PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL EXTEND TO JOBSEEKERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR EMPLOYMENT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AS A RESULT OF, AUTHORIZED CAUSES SUCH AS INSTALLATION OF LABOR-SAVING DEVICES, REDUNDANCY, RETRENCHMENT, CLOSURE OR CESSATION OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS, OR DISEASE, AS SUBSTANTIATED BY A DULY ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYMENT OR NOTICE OF TERMINATION, OR IN THE ABSENCE THEREOF, A BARANGAY CERTIFICATION, WHICH SHALL BE ISSUED FREE OF CHARGE, STATING THE FACT OF THE JOBSEEKER'S UNEMPLOYMENT, THE CAUSE THEREOF, AND THAT HIS/HER PREVIOUS EMPLOYER

**FAILED OR REFUSED TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYMENT
OR NOTICE OF TERMINATION.**

Section 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,