

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 367



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARISSA “DEL MAR” P. MAGSINO

AN ACT
PROVIDING DISCOUNT FOR INDIGENT JOB APPLICANTS THE PAYMENT
OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN CERTIFICATES AND
CLEARANCES ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR EMPLOYMENT
APPLICATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Poverty has many faces. But one of the least talked about and perhaps most shielded away from is the fact the what lies at the core of poverty is the truth that many are not given proper and/or enough opportunities. Many study hard, but fail to secure good paying jobs. Many work hard but not as much doors open for them.

In order for them to escape from the bondage of poverty, they need doors of opportunities to open for them. But often times, the poor are thrust into the world on their own, without much aid from the government.

Many of them have been mistaken to be deadbeat and lazy – without much thought or empathy. Society fails to realize that even the first step in securing employment costs so much – especially to the indigent. How could we thus expect them to take that first step into the bright future that we keep harping about, if we do not acknowledge that the step demands money that many of them do not have to begin with.

No less that Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State must “free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality life for all.” Now, this is exactly what this bill intends to do.

The government cannot idly sit by and keep boasting of employment opportunities without realizing that it has to be at the forefront of facilitating easy access to decent jobs. The poor are subjected to prejudices which are beyond their control. Securing government documents which are necessary in gaining access to employment opportunities entails costs.

The goal of this measure to reduce some of the financial burdens that aggravate indigent job applicants in their quest of securing employment. Under the proposed bill, indigent job applicants, whether locally or abroad, are granted a twenty percent (20%) discount in the payment of fees and charges for the following clearances and certificates which are required in their pre-employment application.

The discount aims to be applicable to Barangay Clearance, NBI Clearance, Police Clearance, Medical Certificate from any government hospital, Marriage Certificate, Birth Certificate, Transcript of Records from State Universities and Colleges, Tax Identification Number (TIN), Certificate of Good Moral Character from State Universities and Colleges, and other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be required by employers from indigent job applicants.

The discount under this bill will hopefully be the window that will eventually open more doors of opportunities for indigent job seekers who only hope to be released from the chains of poverty through employment.

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


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

3 Section 1. *Short Title.*– This Act shall be known as the “Indigent Job Applicants
4 Discount Act”.

5 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*– It is the policy of the State to promote a just and
6 dynamic order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free
7 people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
8 employment, a rising standard of living and improved quality of life for all.

9 Further, the State shall strive to promote full employment and equality of gainful
10 work and opportunities for its citizens. Toward this end, the state shall expand
11 accessibility to government services and provide acceptable discounts and incentives to
12 enhance indigent job seekers’ access to decent employment.

13 Sec. 3. *Provision of Twenty Percent (20%) Discount.* – Indigent job applicants,
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1 whether locally or abroad, shall be granted a twenty percent (20%) discount in the
2 payment of fees and charges for the following clearances and certificates requisite for
3 pre-employment application:

- 4 a) Clearance from the barangay where the applicant resides;
- 5 b) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- 6 c) Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- 7 d) Medical certificate for local employment from any government hospital
8 licensed by the Department of Health (DOH), and medical certificate for
9 foreign employment from any DOH-accredited medical facility for Filipino
10 overseas workers;
- 11 e) Certificate of marriage from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- 12 f) Certificate of live birth from PSA;
- 13 g) Transcript of Records (TOR) from the State Universities and Colleges of the
14 applicant;
- 15 h) Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- 16 i) Certificate of Good Moral Character (CGMCS) from the State Universities and
17 Colleges of the applicant; and
- 18 j) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be 14
19 required by employers from indigent job applicants.

20 The indigent job applicant may avail of the privileges under this Act only once
21 every six (6) months from each government agency.

22 *Sec. 4. Identification of Beneficiaries.* - For purpose of this Act, an indigent job
23 applicant refers to a person who is seeking gainful employment and has no visible
24 means of income or whose income falls below the official poverty threshold, as identified
25 and certified by the PSA based on the criteria set under the Community-Based
26 Monitoring System (CBMS) as established under Republic Act No. 11315. The city or
27 municipality shall issue the certificates of indigency based on the latest CBMS data.

1 Sec. 5. *Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee.* - An Inter-
2 Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee shall be established to coordinate and
3 monitor the implementation of this Act.

4 Sec. 6. *Composition of the Committee.* - The Committee shall be composed of the
5 following:

- 6 a. Secretary of Labor and Employment or his authorized representative as
7 Chairperson;
- 8 b. National Statistician and Civil Registrar-General of the PSA or his authorized
9 representative, as Vice Chairperson;
- 10 c. Secretary of the Interior and Local Government or his authorized
11 representative as Member;
- 12 d. Secretary of Justice or his authorized representative as Member;
- 13 e. Chief of the PNP or his authorized representative as Member;
- 14 f. Director of the NBI or his authorized representative as Member;
- 15 g. Secretary of Health or his authorized representative as Member;
- 16 h. Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission or his authorized
17 representative as Member; and
- 18 i. Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education.

19 Sec. 7. *Functions of the Committee.* - The Committee shall have the following
20 functions:

- 21 a. To coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act;
- 22 b. To make recommendations for concerned agencies to ensure the effective and
23 efficient delivery of benefit for indigent job applicants under this Act; and
- 24 c. To submit an annual report to Congress on the implementation of this Act.

25 Sec. 8. *Penalties.* -

26 a) Any public officer or employee who refuses or fails to provide the benefit
27 granted to the indigent job applicant in violation of Section 3 of this Act shall, upon
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conviction, be subjected to a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00).

Prosecution for an offense set forth in this Act shall be without prejudice to any liability for violation of any other existing laws, including civil service law, rules and regulations.

b) A job applicant who misrepresents or falsifies any document to avail of benefits provided under this Act or abuses the privilege granted herein shall be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 3185, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, and shall suffer perpetual disqualification from availing of the privileges under this Act.

Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. -Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Labor and Employment, in consultation with PSA, Department of Interior and Local Government, NBI, PNP, Department of Justice, DOH, the National Anti-Poverty Commission, and the Commission on Higher Education, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 10. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and thereby remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,