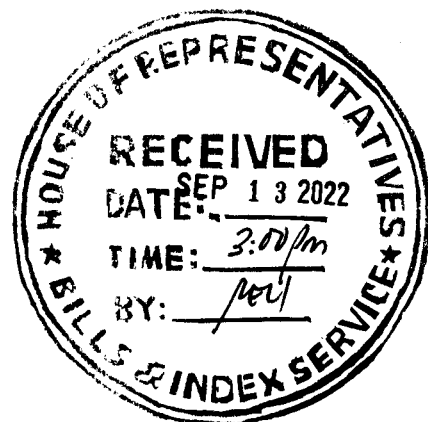




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
2022
HOUSE BILL No. 4758



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is no less than our national hero who said that the youth is the hope of our future. Under the 1987 Constitution¹,

SECTION 3. The State shall defend:

(2) The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

There are a lot of laws enacted to protect children from neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. One example of which is Republic Act No. 9231, which aims to eliminate child labor and affording protection for the working child. R.A. No. 9231 further amended Republic Act No. 7610 which is the Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.

R.A. No. 9231 states that, children below fifteen (15) years of age shall not be employed, except when a child works directly under the sole responsibility of his or her parents or legal guardian and where only members of his or her family and employed and where a child's employment or participation in public entertainment or information².

Further, the same law states that

¹ Section 3(2), Article XV, 1987 Constitution.

² Section 12, Republic Act No. 9231.

“(1) A child below fifteen (15) years of age may be allowed to work for not more than twenty (20) hours a week: Provided, That the work shall not be more than four (4) hours at any given day;

“(2) A child fifteen (15) years of age but below eighteen (18) shall not be allowed to work for more than eight (8) hours a day, and in no case beyond forty (40) hours a week;

“(3) No child below fifteen (15) years of age shall be allowed to work between eight o’clock in the evening and six o’clock in the morning of the following day and no child fifteen (15) years of age but below eighteen (18) shall be allowed to work between ten o’clock in the evening and six o’clock in the morning of the following day.³”

As gleaned from the provision of law, there is a difference with regard to the allowable working hours for minors aged below fifteen (15) years of age and minors who are fifteen (15) years of age to eighteen (18) years of age. This bill aims to remove the difference between the working hours among minors and provide a uniform time to which minors are allowed to work.



ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila

³ Section 3, Republic Act No. 9231.



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HOUSE BILL No. 4758

Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 12 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS "SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE,
EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 9231

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

SECTION 1. Article 12-A, Paragraph 3, of Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act", as amended by Republic Act No. 9231, is hereby amended to read as follows.

"Sec. 12-A. *Hours of Work of a Working Child.* - Under the exceptions provided in Section 12 of this Act, as amended:

XXX

(3) No child below eighteen (18) years of age shall be allowed to work between eleven o'clock in the evening and seven o'clock in the morning of the following day."

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* — All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and two (2) newspapers of national circulation.