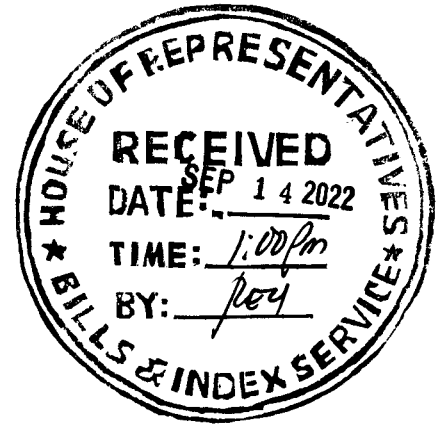




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4828



INTRODUCED BY TUTOK TO WIN
PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE SAM "SV" VERZOSA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In June 2022, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that 2.99 million of the Filipinos remain unemployed. It likewise reported that poverty incidence among population in 2021 reached 18.1 percent, accounting for around 19.99 million Filipinos who lived below the poverty threshold of about PhP 12,030 per month for a family of five.

Republic Act No. 11291, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of the Poor, mandates the State to uplift the standard of living and quality of life of the poor and provide them with sustained opportunities for growth and development. To achieve this, investments in anti-poverty programs to enable the poor to fully participate in the country's growth and development shall be among the top priorities of the State.

This bill encourages and aids the poor applicants to seek and secure gainful employment by providing them Twenty Percent (20%) discount in the payment of fees and charges for clearances and certificates issued by government agencies, public schools, colleges and universities being required for pre-employment application.

By easing the financial obstacles in processing the employment requirements, the underprivileged will be more motivated and empowered to secure jobs and be an instrument to nation-building and development.

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



SAM "SV" VERZOSA
Representative
Tutok to Win Party-List



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AN ACT
PROVIDING POOR JOB APPLICANTS A 20% DISCOUNT IN THE PAYMENT
OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN CERTIFICATES AND CLEARANCES
ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "**Poor Job Applicants Discount Act**".

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

Further, the State shall strive for a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people, and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged. To this end, the State shall provide a Twenty Percent (20%) discount for poor job applicants in the payment of fees and charges for certain certificates and clearances issued by government agencies.

SECTION 3. *Provision of Twenty Percent (20%) Discount.* - Poor job applicants, whether here or abroad, shall be granted a Twenty percent (20%) discount in the payment of fees and charges for the following clearances and certificates requisite for pre-employment application:

- (a) Clearance from the barangay where the applicant resides;
- (b) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- (c) Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- (d) Medical certificate for local employment from any government hospital licensed by the Department of Health (DOH);
- (e) Certificate of marriage from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- (f) Certificate of live birth from the PSA;
- (g) Transcript of Records from the State Universities and Colleges of the applicant;
- (h) Certificate of Good Moral Character from the State Universities and Colleges of the applicant; and
- (i) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be required by employers from poor job applicants.

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

SECTION 4. *Identification of Beneficiaries.* - As used in this Act, a poor job applicant refers to a person who is seeking gainful employment and has no visible means of income or whose income falls below the official poverty threshold, as identified and certified by the PSA based on the criteria set-under the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) as established under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise known as "An Act Establishing a Community-Based Monitoring System and Appropriating Funds Therefor".

Members of the households of the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program" (4Ps) shall be automatically considered as "poor" and are eligible to avail of the privileges under this Act.

SECTION 5. *Penalties.* - a) Any public officer or employee who refuses or fails to provide the benefit granted to the poor job applicant in violation of Section 3 of this

Act shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00).

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 in availing the privileges under this Act.

SECTION 6. *Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee.* - An inter-agency coordinating and monitoring committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, shall be established to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this Act.

The Committee shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or the authorized representative as Chairperson;
- (b) National Statistician and Civil Registrar-General of the PSA or the authorized representative, as Vice Chairperson;
- (c) Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) or the authorized representative as Member;
- (d) Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) or the authorized representative as Member;
- (e) Chief of the PNP or the authorized representative as Member;
- (f) Director of the NBI or the authorized representative as Member;
- (g) Secretary of the DOH or the authorized representative as Member;
- (h) Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) or the authorized representative as Member; and
- (i) Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

The Committee shall have the following functions:

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

SECTION 7. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* - Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Congressional Oversight Committee is hereby constituted. The Committee shall set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It shall likewise determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend necessary remedial legislation or executive measures.

The Committee shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate as Co-Chairpersons, and six (6) members from each House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate President, respectively.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOLE, in consultation with the PSA, DILG, NBI, PNP, DOJ, DOH, NAPC, and CHED shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions thereof, not otherwise affected, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,