

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session



House Bill No. **10252**

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ERWIN T. TULFO, JOCELYN P. TULFO, EDVIC G. YAP, ERIC GO YAP AND RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO

AN ACT
EXEMPTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SOLO PARENTS FROM
GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF BASIC
DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The "Employment Opportunity Support Act for Persons with Disability and Solo Parents" aims to address the financial barriers encountered by individuals with disabilities (PWD) and solo parents when obtaining essential employment documents by exempting them from government fees and charges.

This legislation is grounded in the fundamental principle of upholding the rights and welfare of PWDs and solo parents, ensuring their seamless integration into society and equitable access to opportunities. It acknowledges the significant challenges faced by these marginalized groups in accessing essential services and privileges due to financial limitations, particularly in acquiring documents vital for employment.

According to data from Department of Health, the Philippines has up to 15 million solo parents, while the population of PWDs according to the Philippine Statistics Authority is approximately 1.44 million. Despite their potential contributions to the workforce, PWDs and solo parents often encounter difficulties in securing employment due to various barriers, including financial constraints in obtaining necessary documents.

This proposed legislation endeavors to promote inclusivity, social welfare, and equal employment opportunities for PWDs and solo parents, thereby contributing to the overall progress of our society.

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



HON. ERWIN T. TULFO



HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO



HON. RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO



HON. EDVIC G. YAP



HON. ERIC GO YAP

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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 "Employment Opportunity Support Act for Persons with Disability and Solo Parents."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to uphold the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities and solo parents, ensuring their full integration into society and promoting equal opportunities for participation. Recognizing the financial constraints faced by these marginalized sectors in obtaining necessary documents for employment, it is imperative to waive government fees to facilitate their access to essential services and privileges.

SECTION 3. *Definitions. For the purposes of this Act:* -

(a) "Basic Employment Documents" - shall refer to documents usually requested by private or public employers as a pre-requisite for employment which include but not limited to, police clearance, clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and barangay clearance;

(b) "Government Fees and Charges" include any fees, charges, or expenses imposed by government agencies in the issuance of basic documents required for the employment of persons with disabilities and solo parent

(c) "Person with Disability" refers to any individual who has long term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on equal basis with others.

(d) "Solo Parent" pertains to any individual who falls in categories stated in Sec. 4 of Republic Act 8972 as amended.

SECTION 4. *Waiver of Fees and Charges.* -

All government fees and charges related to the issuance of basic documents required for the employment of persons with disabilities and solo parents shall be waived. These documents include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Police clearance certificate;
- (b) National Bureau of Investigation clearance;
- (c) Barangay clearance;
- (d) Medical certificate from a public hospital, including laboratory tests and other medical procedures;
- (e) Birth Certificate;
- (f) Marriage Certificate;
- (g) Transcript of academic records issued by state college and universities;
- (h) Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- (i) Unified Multi-Purpose ID (UMID) card;
- (j) Philippine Identification card;
- (k) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be required by employers from job applicants.

SECTION 5. *Qualifications.* - Persons with disabilities and solo parents shall present their respective identification cards obtained from the Local Government Unit (LGU) to avail of the exemption provided herein. These identification cards serve as crucial documentation to verify eligibility for the program, ensuring that benefits are accessed by qualified individuals recognized at the local level.

SECTION 6. *Implementation.* - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 7. *Public Awareness Campaign.* - The DSWD, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, shall conduct a nationwide information and education campaign to raise awareness about the provisions of this Act and the procedures for availing of the waiver of fees and charges.

SECTION 8. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* - The DSWD shall establish a monitoring and evaluation system to ensure the proper implementation of this Act and the efficient delivery of services to persons with disabilities and solo parents.

SECTION 9. *Funding.* - The necessary funds for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Government agencies tasked with the issuance of the aforementioned documents shall include budgetary provisions for the waived fees and charges in their respective budgets.

SECTION 10. *Penal Provisions.* - Any government official or personnel found guilty of imposing fees and charges contrary to the provisions of this Act shall be subjected to administrative sanctions and shall be held liable under existing laws.

SECTION 11. *Periodic Review.* - The DSWD, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall conduct a periodic review of this Act and may recommend revisions or amendments as necessary to enhance its effectiveness in achieving its objectives.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

