Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

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HOUSE BILL NO. 10518

Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

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 significant financial barriers encountered by individuals with disabilities (PWDs) 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.

This bill recognizes the unique challenges faced by these marginalized groups, particularly financial limitations that hinder their access to essential services and privileges. Obtaining vital employment documents, such as clearances, certifications, and other necessary paperwork, often involves fees that can be prohibitive for PWDs and solo parents. By exempting them from these charges, the Act seeks to remove one of the significant obstacles to their employment, thereby enhancing their ability to participate fully in the workforce.

According to data from the Department of Health, the Philippines has up to 15 million solo parents, while the population of PWDs is approximately 1.44 million according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. In addition to addressing financial barriers, this Act also underscores the importance of inclusive policies that promote equality and social justice. By facilitating easier access to employment for PWDs and solo parents, the Act contributes to a more inclusive labor market, enhancing diversity and fostering a culture of inclusivity within workplaces. This not only benefits the individuals directly affected but also enriches the workforce with diverse perspectives and talents.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the Bill is earnestly sought.

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

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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."

SEC. 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.

SEC. 3. ***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.

SEC. 4. ***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.

SEC. 5. ***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.

SEC. 6. ***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.

SEC. 7. ***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.

SEC. 8. ***Appropriations*** — 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.

SEC. 9. ***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.

SEC. 10. ***Repealing Clause*** — All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. ***Effectivity*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,