

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

TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. **1030**



Introduced by Rep. ROBERT NAZAL

AN ACT REMOVING THE BARANGAY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “SOLO PARENTS’ WELFARE ACT OF 2000”, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11861, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED SOLO PARENTS’ WELFARE ACT” AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the “Solo Parents’ Welfare Act of 2000”, recognized the vital role of solo parents in the promotion of a just and dynamic social order. It affirmed the State’s duty to support the efforts, sacrifices, and challenges solo parents endure in raising their children single-handedly.

This landmark legislation institutionalized a comprehensive program of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their children, including access to livelihood support, counseling services, anti-discrimination policy, parental leave, medical assistance, as well as housing and educational benefits.

Additional support and benefits were granted through the enactment of Republic Act No. 11861 amending R.A. No. 8972. It entitled eligible solo parents to a monthly cash subsidy, a 10% discount and VAT exemption on baby necessities, automatic Philhealth coverage, prioritization in housing projects and re-entry in the work force through apprenticeships, scholarships, livelihood training, and reintegration programs by the government. It also introduced the issuance of Solo Parent Identification Card (SPIC) and booklet designed to streamline access to these benefits and assistance.

The Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 8972, as amended by R.A. No. 11861 outlines the procedure and documentary requirements for the issuance of the SPIC. Solo parents have to prove their circumstances of being solo parents and that the child or children is or are under their parental care and support. Solo parents

are required to submit, among others, the birth certificates of their children, a sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not collaborating with a partner or co-partner, and has sole parental care and support of the child and children, and an **affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child or children is/are under the parental care and support of the solo parent.**

Section 18 of R. A. No. 11861 mandates the Department of Interior Local Government and Department of Social Welfare and Development to set up a centralized database of all solo parents who have already been issued a SPIC. When the information sought to be established by the barangay certification are already verifiable through other documentary requirements submitted by the solo parents and can be cross-referenced through the centralized database, to require solo parents to go to their respective barangay halls for the affidavit becomes redundant and unnecessary.

Solo parents and their families face unique circumstances usually involving socioeconomic and emotional challenges. There are instances when they are compelled to relocate in pursuit of better opportunities or to protect themselves and their children from abusive environments. Moreover, for solo parents juggling work, caregiving, and survival, this step can become a significant barrier to access. Requiring them to obtain an affidavit from the barangay is but also impractical considering the personal appearances, documentary requests, and in some places, unofficial fees. Some applicants report being subjected to intrusive questioning or moral judgment unrelated to the administrative nature of the application by barangay officials and employees while making the request for the certification.

The barangay certification may be in aid of information verification. However, in practice, this requirement unnecessarily prolongs and complicates the process in view of other available means to verify such information and as a safeguard against abuse or misuse of the services and programs to solo parents.

This bill therefore seeks to prohibit the requirement of a barangay certification as a mandatory documentary requirement for the application of the SPIC consistent with the state's policy of providing meaningful, accessible, and efficient support to solo parents.

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


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

Section 1. *Removal of Barangay Certification as a Documentary Requirement for the Issuance of a Solo Parent Identification Card.* Section 15 of Republic Act No. 8972 is amended to read as follows:

“Section 15. Additional Benefits. - A solo parent shall be entitled to the following additional benefits:

- (a) xxx;
- (b) xxx;
- (c) xxx;
- (d) xxx;
- (e) xxx.

“To avail of the additional benefits under this section, the solo parent shall present a Solo Parent Identification Card (SPIC): Provided, That in availing the additional benefits under paragraph (2) of this section, the solo parent booklet shall also be presented.”

“No barangay certification or affidavit from any barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child or children is/are under the solo parent’s care and

support shall be required for the issuance of the Solo Parent Identification Card (SPIC): Provided, That the solo parent shall state in their sworn affidavit the circumstances of their residency for at least the past six (6) months, supported by a valid government-issued identification card or any other official document reflecting their declared residential address.”

Section 2. *Penalty for Unlawful Imposition of Additional Requirements.* Any public officer or employee as defined in Executive Order No. 292, or the "Administrative Code of 1987", who, directly or indirectly, imposes, requires, or causes the requirement of a barangay certification or affidavit from a barangay official attesting to the residency of the solo parent and the parental care and support of the child or children, in violation of Section 1 of this Act, shall be penalized accordingly:

1. The first offense shall be punished by a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (PHP 1,000.00) but not more than Fifteen Thousand Pesos (PHP 15,000.00) and be required to undergo a mandatory orientation on the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations in coordination with the Solo Parents Office and DSWD.
2. The second offense shall be punished by thirty (30) days suspension without pay; and
3. The third offense shall be punished by dismissal and perpetual disqualification from public service.

Section 3. *Repealing Clause.* All other laws, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,