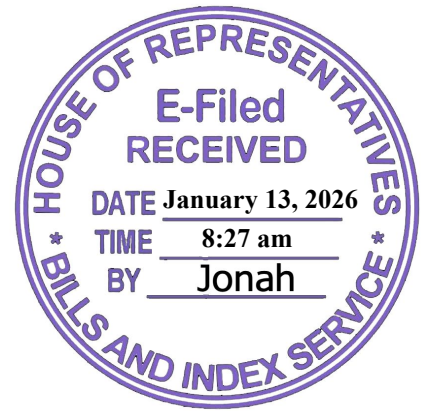




**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**Twentieth Congress
1st Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 7098**



Introduced by Rep. Elisa “Olga” T. Kho

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution explicitly charges the State with fostering full employment and improving the quality of life for all citizens, particularly the marginalized sector. Despite this mandate, many indigent Filipinos remain in a "poverty trap" where the very requirements for securing a job are financially out of reach. While the *First-Time Jobseekers Assistance Act* (RA 11261) offers a helpful starting point, its one-time-use limitation fails to address the reality of long-term unemployment. This measure, "Kabalikat sa Hanapbuhay Act" seeks to bridge this gap by offering a more enduring and specialized social safety net for those living below the poverty line.

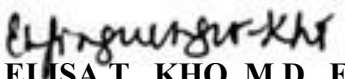
At present, the financial burden of acquiring mandatory clearances from the NBI, PNP, and PSA, along with medical and academic records, can exceed one thousand pesos. For a household already struggling to afford basic necessities like food and shelter, these costs act as a prohibitive barrier that stifles the drive to find work and fuels a self-perpetuating cycle of poverty. By mandating a 20% discount on essential clearances and a 100% fee waiver for vital documents such as TINs and SUC records, this bill effectively eliminates the "economic gatekeepers" that prevent the poor from achieving a dignified livelihood.

To ensure that these benefits reach the intended recipients without being subject to abuse, the Act integrates modern administrative safeguards. By utilizing established targeting mechanisms like the DSWD's Listahanan and the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), the government can verify the status of applicants with high precision. This data-driven approach ensures that limited state resources are prioritized for the truly destitute, maintaining the integrity of the program while streamlining the application process across various government agencies.

One of the most significant features of this proposal is the provision allowing beneficiaries to renew these discounts and waivers every six months. This timeframe acknowledges the volatile nature of the labor market, where a single job application rarely results in immediate placement. By permitting periodic access to free or discounted documents, the bill provides job seekers the

necessary breathing room to persist in their search over several months without being drained by recurring administrative fees.

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


REP. ELISA T. KHO, M.D., FPCCP



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Kabalikat sa Hanapbuhay Act of 2026."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote full employment and free the people from poverty by providing adequate social services and an improved quality of life. To this end, the State shall provide indigent job seekers financial relief by discounting or waiving fees for essential pre-employment documents.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

1. Indigent Job Seeker refers to a Filipino citizen seeking gainful employment whose income falls below the official poverty threshold as identified by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) or who has no visible means of income.
2. Pre-employment Documents refer to certificates, clearances, and IDs required by employers as part of the job application process.

SECTION 4. Identification of Beneficiaries. –

1. Automatic Eligibility: Households enrolled under the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)* shall be automatically considered indigent.
2. Certification: For those not in the 4Ps, the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer (LSWDO) is authorized to issue a Certificate of Indigency based on the latest Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) data. This certificate shall be free of charge.

SECTION 5. Twenty Percent (20%) Discount. – Indigent job seekers shall be granted a 20% discount on fees for the following:

- Clearance from the Barangay;
- Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- Police Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- Medical Certificate from any government hospital;
- PSA Birth and Marriage Certificates;
- TESDA National Certificates (NC) and Certificates of Competency (COC).

SECTION 6. Waiver of Fees (100% Free). – Fees for the following documents shall be waived entirely:

- Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the BIR;
- Transcript of Records (TOR) and Diplomas from State Universities and Colleges (SUCs);
- Certificate of Civil Service Eligibility.

SECTION 7. Frequency of Availment. – Beneficiaries may avail of the privileges under this Act only once every six (6) months to prevent abuse.

SECTION 8. Inter-Agency Coordination. – An Inter-Agency Committee led by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall maintain a digital database of beneficiaries to monitor the availment of these benefits.

SECTION 9. Penalties. – Any public officer who refuses to provide the benefits under this Act shall be subject to a fine of not less than ₱5,000 but not more than ₱20,000 and temporary disqualification from public office.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,