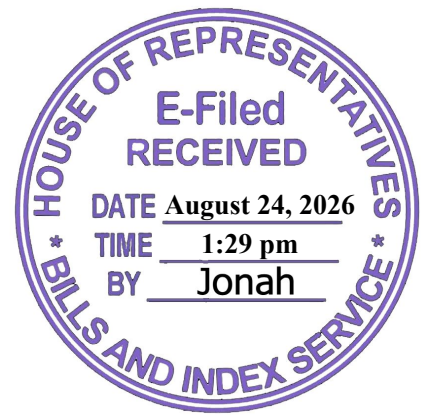


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10868



Introduced by Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under current conventions in economics, work that is not remunerated does not count as productive labor. Unfortunately, this category would include the work done by housewives, stay-at-home mothers, or homemakers who care for dependents, both young and elderly, in their household. Cooking breakfast, washing and preparing the clothes for the day, cleaning the home, balancing the household budget are only some of the many things our mothers, sisters, and many more do that require not only the fullest dedication, time, and a wide variety of skills. And yet, society in its current form, often dismisses or undervalues the labor of home-making.

But imagine a tomorrow, where suddenly, housewives and homemakers cease to do the work they usually do. The most likely result would be that the lives of everyday Filipinos as we know it would become commensurately more difficult. Those considered in the productive economy would feel the extra burden of having to pick up the labor gap that ensues, becoming less productive in their professional jobs in the process. It is then worth considering, that if full-time housework is indeed inconsequential, how come that it would be impossible to maintain a productive economy without it?

It is thus imperative upon the State to recognize the “invisible labor” done by stay-at-home women, mothers, wives, and homemakers as a valuable part of our economy. In line with the Constitutional imperatives to promote a just and dynamic social order, to value the dignity of every human person, and to recognize the role of women in nation-building, housewives and homemakers should be given the equivalent of a wage. With this, the State takes a step not only to provide a means for families with only one breadwinner to lift themselves out of poverty, but also take a step to recognize the vital role that women and homemakers perform from the onset of one’s life to the twilight of their years.

It is for these foregoing premises that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 10868

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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION FOR STAY-AT-HOME SPOUSES AND
HOMEMAKERS**

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 “Homemakers’ Compensation Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to recognize the work of stay-at-home homemakers and housewives and as an indispensable backbone to the productive economy. In line with this end, housewives and homemakers shall receive appropriate financial remuneration for the services they render on a full-time basis.

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

- a) “Homemaker” refers to any person who performs domestic work for dependents at home as a full-time occupation and is not engaged in any part-time nor home-based work that is compensated or generates income.
- b) “Domestic work” refers to the variety of services done for children, parents, and/or elderly dependents, which include but is not limited to: providing care for children and elderly dependents, cooking, cleaning, balancing accounts, household maintenance, and the like.
- c) “Children” refer to persons aged 0-18 years of age, or who possess the mental ability of a child who is below 18 years of age, who form part of the homemaker’s household and cannot take care of themselves.
- d) “Elderly dependents” refer to persons aged 60 years of age or above who form part of the homemaker’s household and cannot take care of themselves.

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all homemakers whose household’s economic status falls below the poverty threshold, who perform domestic work for their dependents full-time, and do not have any part-time nor home-based work that is compensated.

SECTION 5. *Compensation.* – Financial assistance in the equivalent of Four Thousand Pesos per month (Php 4,000.00) shall be given to housewives and homemakers who are covered under this Act.

The assistance will be subject to a review every three (3) years by Congress, together and in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). At the onset of implementation, the government shall make use of the DSWD National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) database to identify the initial set of beneficiaries.

After the first year of implementation, the DSWD, in coordination with local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDO), will set up mechanisms for the annual update of the NHTS-PR in determining qualified beneficiaries.

SECTION 6. *Continuing Conditions For Coverage.* – The financial compensation shall be released by the DSWD, in coordination with the relevant local government units (LGUs), as the case may be, subject to the following continuing conditions:

- a) The child or children is/are enrolled in public schools, where said child/children must garner at least eighty-five percent (85%) attendance;
- b) The child or children manifest responsible behavior in preparation for eventual independence from the household;
- c) In cases of either children or elderly dependents, there are no reports nor findings of abuse by the homemaker or their partner done to the children or elderly dependents. Any prima facie finding of abuse done by the homemaker or their partner will be grounds to temporarily suspend the financial assistance provided for in this Act until a final order or resolution is made by the relevant authorities; and
- d) The household attends a quarterly barangay assembly aimed at empowering the family to become responsible members of their locality, and at reducing the time burden of unpaid care for women living in poverty.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Agency.* – The DSWD, together with the LGUs, shall implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the DSWD, in consultation with the Department of Interior and local Government (DILG) and the Department of Education (DepEd) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations, including the targeting and screening of beneficiaries, for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the concerned local offices of the DSWD and LGUs in the General Appropriations Act for the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,