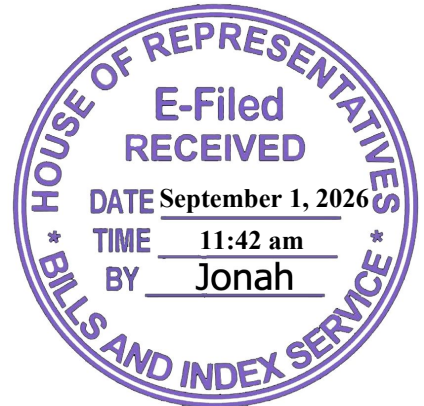




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11032



Introduced by Deputy Speaker David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE FIRST-TIME JOBSEEKERS ASSISTANCE ACT BY WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES FOR LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) STUDENT PERMITS AND NON-PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR QUALIFIED FIRST-TIME JOBSEEKERS IN LIGHT LOGISTICS, EXPRESS DELIVERY, MESSENGER, AND COURIER SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 4, 5, 8, AND 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11261, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enactment of Republic Act No. 11261, or the "First-Time Jobseekers Assistance Act," marked a milestone in youth empowerment by waiving administrative fees for primary pre-employment documents such as NBI clearances, police certificates, and birth records.

However, the modern employment landscape has evolved rapidly. Today, one of the largest and most accessible entry points for young Filipinos entering the workforce is the express logistics, courier, and light transport sector. From corporate messengers and postal deliverers to app-based motorcycle and light-freight couriers operating on digital platforms such as Lalamove, Transportify, and local logistics networks, vehicle operation has become an essential job requirement.

For a first-time jobseeker, acquiring an initial Student Permit and a Non-Professional Driver's License, alongside mandatory Theoretical Driving Courses (TDC), can cost several thousand pesos in government fees and processing charges. This upfront financial burden acts as a barrier preventing economically disadvantaged youth from securing immediate, legitimate livelihoods.

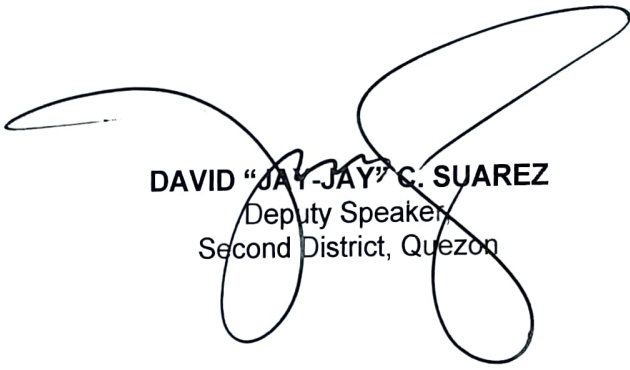
Importantly, these light transport and courier roles do not legally require commercial Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) professional driving qualifications; a Non-

Professional Driver's License or Student Permit is legally and operationally sufficient for onboarding and employment.

This bill expands R.A. 11261 by waiving LTO administrative fees for Student Permits and Non-Professional Driver's Licenses for first-time jobseekers entering light logistics, messenger, postal, and courier roles. It further mandates free Theoretical Driving Courses through LTO public centers and TESDA.

By removing these financial barriers, Congress directly equips the Filipino youth with practical tools for immediate employment, economic independence, and productive participation in the modern digital economy.

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



DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ
Deputy Speaker
Second District, Quezon



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Expanded First-Time Jobseekers Assistance Act.*"

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11261, otherwise known as the "*First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act*", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. Covered Governmental Transactions. – No fees and other charges shall be collected from first-time job-seekers when obtaining the following, subject to the requirement in Section 5:

- (a) Police clearance certificate;
- (b) National Bureau of Investigation clearance;

- (c) Barangay clearance;
- (d) Medical certificate from a public hospital, provided that fees and charges collected for laboratory tests and other medical procedures required for the grant of a medical certificate shall not be free of charge;
- (e) Birth Certificate;
- (f) Marriage Certificate;
- (g) Transcript of academic records issued by state colleges and universities;
- (h) Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- (i) Unified Multi-Purpose ID (UMID) card;
- (J) LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) APPLICATION, EXAMINATION, AND ISSUANCE FEES FOR A STUDENT PERMIT OR A NON-PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE, WHEN VEHICLE OPERATION IS A BONA FIDE PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR ENGAGEMENT, OR PLATFORM ONBOARDING REQUIREMENT FOR THE POSITION BEING APPLIED FOR, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO EXPRESS COURIERS, CORPORATE MESSENGERS, POSTAL DELIVERERS, FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIANS, DISPATCH PERSONNEL, AND DIGITAL FREIGHT OR DELIVERY PLATFORM PARTNERS; PROVIDED, THAT FEES CHARGED BY PRIVATE DRIVING SCHOOLS, PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTERS, OR PRIVATE MEDICAL CLINICS SHALL NOT BE COVERED BY THIS WAIVER; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO AVAIL FREE OF CHARGE THE MANDATORY THEORETICAL DRIVING COURSES (TDC) CONDUCTED DIRECTLY BY LTO DRIVER'S EDUCATION CENTERS (DEC) OR PUBLIC TRAINING CENTERS OPERATED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA); AND**
- (K) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be required by employers from job applicants."**

SECTION 3. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11261 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 5. Proof of Eligibility and Verification. – First-time job-seekers availing of the benefits provided under this Act shall

present a barangay certification stating that the applicant is a first-time job-seeker: Provided, that any person found guilty of fabrication or falsification shall be liable under the Revised Penal Code;

PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT TO AVAIL OF THE FEE WAIVER FOR LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) CREDENTIALS UNDER SECTION 4(J) OF THIS ACT, THE APPLICANT SHALL PRESENT TO THE LTO, A BARANGAY CERTIFICATION STATING THAT THE APPLICANT IS A FIRST-TIME JOBSEEKER INTENDING TO SEEK GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT IN MESSENGER, EXPRESS COURIER, OR LIGHT LOGISTICS SERVICES, OR A PRE-EMPLOYMENT ENDORSEMENT ISSUED BY THE LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE (PESO); AND A FORMAL PRE-EMPLOYMENT NOTICE, CONDITIONAL JOB OFFER, REQUISITION FORM, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT, PROOF OF PENDING PLATFORM ONBOARDING REGISTRATION FROM A REGISTERED EMPLOYER, DIGITAL DELIVERY PLATFORM, LOGISTICS OPERATOR, OR COURIER SERVICE, OR A CERTIFICATION OF PRE-EMPLOYMENT ENDORSEMENT ISSUED BY THE LOCAL PESO CONFIRMING THAT THE APPLICANT REQUIRES A NON-PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT."

SECTION 4. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 11261 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 8. *Exceptions.* — The waiver of fees and charges provided under this Act shall not include those collected in connection with an application to take a professional licensure examination conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission, application for a Philippine passport authentication and red ribbon of documents from the Department of Foreign Affairs, application for a Career Service Examination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), AND application for a driver's license from the Land Transportation Office, **EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 4(J) OF THIS ACT."**

SECTION 5. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11261 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 12. *Interagency Monitoring Committee.* — An interagency committee is hereby created with the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment as chairperson, and as members, the heads of the CSC, the DICT, the Department of Finance, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the National Youth Commission, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, **THE SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE, THE SECRETARY OF THE**

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, and other departments the participation of which the committee may deem necessary.

The committee shall monitor the compliance of the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, and may recommend to the proper authorities the filing of an administrative complaint against any person who refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act.”

SECTION 6. *Appropriations and Funding Mechanics* — The financial requirement necessary for the immediate implementation of the waived LTO administrative, card, and technological fees under Section 2 of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s available appropriations of the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

Thereafter, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall allocate and include as a distinct line-item allocation under the annual budget of the LTO in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) such amount as may be necessary to fully cover and subsidize the processing, IT transaction, and card manufacturing costs of credentials issued to qualified beneficiaries under this Act.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), through its Public Employment Service Office (PESO) network, the DICT, and the LTO shall establish an integrated database for real-time electronic verification and validation of eligible first-time jobseekers.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as Lead Agency of the Interagency Monitoring Committee, in full consultation with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Land Transportation Office (LTO), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. — If any provision or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause*. — All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,