



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 145

Submitted by the Committee on Poverty Alleviation on March 10, 2026

Re: House Bill No. 8413

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 38, 282, 454, 677, 968, 1389, 1515, 2068, 2573, 3324, 3740, 4685, 5384, and 7417

Sponsors: Reps. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Florabel C. Yatco, and JC M. Abalos

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Poverty Alleviation, to which were referred House Bill No. 38, introduced by Reps. Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, and Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS, DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 282, introduced by Reps. Bryan B. Revilla, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, and Aiman T. Tan, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB APPLICANTS A 20% DISCOUNT IN THE PAYMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN CERTIFICATES AND CLEARANCES ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 454, introduced by Rep. Omar Vincent Sangkola Duterte, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING PRE-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENTS BY IMPLEMENTING A SCHEME FOR CHARGING AND GRANTING DISCOUNT ON FEES IN SECURING PRE-EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATIONS AND CLEARANCES FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 677, introduced by Reps. Lani Mercado-Revilla, Bryan B. Revilla, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, and Aiman T. Tan entitled:

"AN ACT GIVING DISCOUNT OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENT JOB APPLICANTS AND GRANTING THEM ONE-TIME MONETARY AID"

House Bill No. 968, introduced by Reps. Oscar G. Malapitan, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, and Aiman T. Tan entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 1389, introduced by Reps. Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan, and Aiman T. Tan, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS, DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 1515, introduced by Reps. Eric Go Yap and Edvic G. Yap, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING PRE-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENTS BY IMPLEMENTING A SCHEME FOR CHARGING AND GRANTING DISCOUNT ON FEES IN SECURING PRE-EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATIONS AND CLEARANCES FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 2068, introduced by Rep. Robert Nazal, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING DISCOUNTED FEES AND CHARGES TO INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS IN THE ISSUANCE OF PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

House Bill No. 2573, introduced by Reps. Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo and Jocelyn P. Tulfo, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS, DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 3324, introduced by Reps. JC M. Abalos and Marcelino C. Libanan, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS, DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 3740, introduced by Reps. Anna York P. Bondoc, MD, Brian Poe, and Ronaldo V. Puno, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 4685, introduced by Reps. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS, DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

House Bill No. 5384, introduced by Rep. Kenneth T. Gatchalian, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOBSEEKERS DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

and

House Bill No. 7417, introduced by Rep. Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS, DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **8413**,
entitled:

**"AN ACT GRANTING TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT OR EXEMPTION
FROM FEES AND CHARGES TO INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS FOR CERTAIN PRE-
EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"**

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 38, 282, 454, 677, 968, 1389, 1515, 2068, 2573, 3324, 3740, 4685, and 5384 with Representatives Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Bryan B. Revilla, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Omar Vincent Sangkola Duterte, Oscar G. Malapitan, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Eric Go Yap, Edvic G. Yap, Robert Nazal, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, JC M. Abalos, Marcelino C. Libanan, Anna York P. Bondoc, MD, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan, Brian Poe, Ronaldo V. Puno, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Florabel C. Yatco, Irene G. Labadlabad, Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Maria Vanessa "VanVan" C. Aumentado, RN, Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, and Aiman T. Tan as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


REP. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Chairperson
Committee on Poverty Alleviation

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
 First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8413**

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 38, 282, 454, 677, 968, 1389, 1515, 2068, 2573, 3324, 3740, 4685, 5384, 7417)

Introduced by Representatives Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Bryan B. Revilla, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Omar Vincent Sangkola Duterte, Oscar G. Malapitan, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Eric Go Yap, Edvic G. Yap, Robert Nazal, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, JC M. Abalos, Marcelino C. Libanan, Anna York P. Bondoc, MD, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan, Brian Poe, Ronaldo V. Puno, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Florabel C. Yatco, Irene G. Labadlabad, Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Maria Vanessa "VanVan" C. Aumentado, RN, Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, and Aiman T. Tan

AN ACT
GRANTING TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT OR EXEMPTION FROM FEES
AND CHARGES TO INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS FOR CERTAIN PRE-
EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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*”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

Further, the State shall strive for a more equitable distribution of opportunities, decent jobs, income, and wealth. It shall promote (a) sustained growth in the production of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people, and (b) an increase in productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.

To this end, the State shall provide indigent job seekers a twenty percent (20%) discount in the payment of fees and charges or waived fees for certain certificates and clearances issued by government agencies.

SEC. 3. Identification of Beneficiaries. – As used in this Act, an indigent job seeker refers to a person who is seeking gainful employment and has no visible means of income or whose income falls below the official poverty threshold, as identified by the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide one's minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities of life.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is authorized to issue a Certificate of Indigency based on the latest Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) data. Such certification shall be free of charge.

For purposes of identifying indigent job seekers, the CBMS as established under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise known as the "Community-Based Monitoring System Act", shall be used. Any other unified targeting system duly agreed upon by the Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee may be used in the future.

An indigent job seeker whose household is enrolled under the seven-year period "*Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*" (4Ps), shall be automatically considered as "indigent" and eligible to avail of the privileges under this Act.

First time job seekers who avail of waived government fees and charges in the issuance of pre-employment documents under Republic Act No. 11261, otherwise known as the "First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act" are not covered by this Act.

SEC. 4. Twenty Percent (20%) Discount on Fees and Charges for Clearances and Certificates. – Indigent job seekers, whether applying here or abroad, shall be entitled to a twenty percent (20%) discount on fees and charges for the following clearances and certificates requisite for pre-employment application:

- (a) Barangay clearance from the applicant's place of residence;
- (b) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- (c) Police Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- (d) Medical certificate for local employment from any government hospital licensed by the Department of Health (DOH), and medical certificate for foreign employment from any DOH-accredited medical facility for overseas workers and seafarers;
- (e) Certificate of live birth and, if applicable, marriage certificate from the PSA;
- (f) National Certificate and Certificate of Competency from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- (g) Certificate of Civil Service Eligibility from the Civil Service Commission (CSC); and,
- (h) Other documentary requirements issued by any government agency that may be required by employers from indigent job seekers, as determined and approved by the Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee established in Section 9 of this Act.

SEC. 5. Waiver of Fees and Charges for Pre-Employment Documents. – The fees and charges required to acquire the following pre-employment documents including Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) TIN cards shall be waived:

- (a) Tax Identification Number from the BIR; and
- (b) Transcript of Records, Transfer Credentials, Authenticated Copy of Diploma, and Certificate of Good Moral Character from the State Universities and Colleges, and Local Universities and Colleges.

The indigent job seeker can avail of the privileges of waived or discounted fees under this Act only once every six (6) months from each government agency.

SEC. 6. Prohibited Acts and Penalties. – a) Any public officer or employee who refuses or fails to issue a Certificate of Indigency, or to provide the benefit granted to a qualified indigent job seeker in violation of Sections 4 and 5 of this Act within ten (10) days shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000) but not more than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000). The penalty of temporary disqualification to hold public office for a period of five (5) years shall also be imposed.

b) A job seeker who misrepresents or falsifies any document to avail of benefits provided under this Act or abuses the privilege granted herein shall be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the “Revised Penal Code”, and shall suffer perpetual disqualification in availing the privileges under this Act.

Administrative sanctions shall be imposed without prejudice to prosecution as provided for in this Act.

Prosecution for an offense set forth in this Act shall be without prejudice to any liability for violation of any other existing laws, including civil service law, rules and regulations.

SEC. 7. Indigent Job Seekers Database. – The PSA in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall establish and maintain a database system containing an updated roster of all indigent job seekers who availed of the benefits under this Act.

SEC. 8. Non-Authority to Charge Fees. – Other government agencies that do not charge fees in relation to the discharge of their functions cannot use this law to impose fees if no such authority is granted under their respective charters or other relevant laws.

SEC. 9. Interagency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee. – An Interagency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, shall be established to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this Act.

The Committee shall be composed of the Secretary of the DOLE or the authorized representative, as Chairperson; the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) or the authorized representative, as Vice Chairperson, and the following officials or their duly authorized representatives as members: the

Presidents of the Liga ng mga Barangay, League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), and League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP); the Director of the NBI; the Chief of the PNP; the Secretary of the DOH; the Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW); The National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the PSA; the Director General of TESDA; the Chairperson of the CSC; the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); the Commissioner of the BIR; the Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC); the Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); and the Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

The Committee shall have the following functions:

- (a) To coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act;
- (b) To make recommendations for concerned agencies to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of services in providing the benefits for indigent job seekers under this Act;
- (c) To identify and approve other pre-employment certificates and clearances;
- (d) To invite other agencies to be members of the Committee;
- (e) To review, evaluate, and amend accordingly the list of clearances and certificates covered under this Act; and
- (f) To submit an annual report to Congress on the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. - Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) is hereby constituted. The JCOC shall set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It shall likewise recommend necessary remedial legislation, for a period not exceeding three (3) years.

The JCOC shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and of the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate as Co-Chairpersons, six (6) members from each House, and the minority as members, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate President, respectively.

The Secretariat of the JCOC shall be drawn from the existing personnel of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the DOLE shall, in consultation with the DILG, Liga ng mga Barangay, LMP, LCP, NBI, PNP, DOH, DMW, PSA, TESDA, CSC, CHED, BIR, NAPC, NCIP, DSWD, and DICT, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions hereof, not otherwise affected, shall remain in full force and effect.

138 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
139 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
140 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified
141 accordingly.

142 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
143 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

144 *Approved,*

FACT SHEET

HOUSE BILL NO. 8413

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 38, 282, 454, 677, 968, 1389, 1515, 2068, 2573, 3324, 3740, 4685, and 5384)

(As Approved on December 9, 2025)

AN ACT

**GRANTING TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT OR EXEMPTION FROM FEES
AND CHARGES TO INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS FOR CERTAIN PRE-
EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

Introduced by: **REPS. ERNESTO M. DIONISIO, JR., BRYAN B. REVILLA, LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III, OMAR VINCENT SANGKOLA DUTERTE, OSCAR G. MALAPITAN, IRIS MARIE DEMESA MONTES, ERIC GO YAP, EDVIC G. YAP, ROBERT NAZAL, RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO, JOCELYN P. TULFO, JC M. ABALOS, MARCELINO C. LIBANAN, ANNA YORK P. BONDOC, MD, FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ, YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ, ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ, JUDE A. ACIDRE, KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN, NOEL “BONG” N. RIVERA, JAVIER MIGUEL LOPEZ BENITEZ, MARIA CRISTINA C. ANGELES, ELEANOR C. BULUT-BEGTANG, KEITH MICAH “ATTY. MIKE” D.L. TAN, BRIAN POE, RONALDO V. PUNO, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, FLORABEL C. YATCO, IRENE G. LABADLABAD, BELLA VANESSA B. SUANSING, MARIA VANESSA “VANVAN” C. AUMENTADO, RN, YEVGENY VINCENTE B. EMANO, AND AIMAN T. TAN**

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Committee Chairperson: Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

OBJECTIVE:

- To ease the financial burden on indigent job seekers by providing discounts or full waivers on government-issued requirements for employment.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Defines an indigent job seeker as a person seeking gainful employment who has no visible means of income, or whose income falls below the official poverty threshold as identified by the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development, and/or who cannot afford, in a sustained manner, to provide for minimum basic needs such as food, health, education, housing, and other essential amenities of life.
- Mandates the use of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) established under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise known as the “Community-Based Monitoring System Act,” in targeting and identifying indigent job seekers.

- Provides that a job seeker whose household is enrolled under the seven-year period of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) shall be automatically considered indigent and eligible to avail of the privileges under this Act.
- Authorizes the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to issue a Certificate of Indigency, free of charge, based on the latest CBMS data.
- Grants indigent job seekers, whether applying locally or abroad, a twenty percent (20%) discount on the payment of fees and charges for the following clearances and certificates required for pre-employment applications:
 - (a) Barangay clearance from the place of residence of the job seeker;
 - (b) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation
 - (c) National Police Clearance from the Philippine National Police;
 - (d) Medical certificate for local employment from any Department of Health (DOH)-licensed government hospital, and medical certificate for foreign employment from any DOH-accredited medical facility for overseas workers and seafarers;
 - (e) Certificate of Marriage from the PSA;
 - (f) Certificate of Live Birth from the PSA;
 - (g) National Certificate and Certificate of Competency from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;
 - (h) Certificate of Civil Service Eligibility from the Civil Service Commission; and
 - (i) Other government-issued documentary requirements that may be required by employers from indigent job seekers.
- Waives fees and charges for indigent job seekers in the issuance of the following pre-employment cards and documents:
 - (a) Tax Identification Number from the Bureau of Internal Revenue; and
 - (b) Transcript of Records, Transfer Credentials, Authenticated Copy of Diploma, and Certificate of Good Moral Character from the State Universities and Colleges, and Local Universities and Colleges of the job seeker.
- Limits the availment of discounts and fee waivers under this Act to once every six (6) months per government agency.
- Mandates the PSA, in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment, to establish and maintain an Indigent Job Seekers Database.
- Creates an Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee to oversee, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of this Act.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 8425, “An Act Institutionalizing the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Program, Creating for the Purpose the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Defining its Powers and Functions, and for Other Purposes”

- Republic Act No. 11261: “An Act Waiving Government Fees and Charges in the Issuance of Documents Required in the Application for Employment of First Time Jobseekers”
- Republic Act No. 11291: “An Act Providing for a Magna Carta of the Poor”
- Republic Act No. 11310: “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act”
- Republic Act No. 11315: “An Act Establishing a Community-Based Monitoring System and Appropriating Funds Therefor”
- Executive Order No. 867, s. 2010: “Providing for the Adoption of the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction as the Mechanism for Identifying Poor Households who shall be Recipients of Social Protection Programs Nationwide”