

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 172



INTRODUCED BY REP. KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES and REP. JERICHO JONAS B. NOGRALES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State must be supportive of, and provide an employment-friendly atmosphere for fresh graduates who are seeking employment. It is a fact that by the time a student finally graduates, family resources are already depleted due to the high cost of tertiary education. While applying for employment, a college graduate is required by the prospective employer to submit many documents from government such as clearances from the police and the National Bureau of Investigation, identification card from the Social Security System, and certification or community tax certificate from the local government unit, among other documents. All these require payment of fees which, when put together, becomes costly and burdensome, especially for someone who is not yet earning. As a result, instead of helping new graduates, an oppressive situation is created.

This bill seeks to protect the interest of the youth and facilitate their access to employment by authorizing a reasonable waiver of fees collected by government for various clearances, licenses, and other documents from fresh graduates who are seeking employment. The recommended waiver of fees must not be viewed as a diminution of revenues for the government but as a means to protect the interest of our youth. In this light, support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.

KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES

JERICHO JONAS B. NOGRALES

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AN ACT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO NEW GRADUATES BY WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the youth. It shall endeavor to provide them opportunities for development by creating policies that will improve their access to employment.

SEC. 2. *Waiver of Fees and Charges.* – Subject to exceptions provided in Section 4 of this Act, all government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and local government units (LGUs) shall not collect fees or charges from new graduates: *Provided*, That such fee or charge is paid in connection with the application for and the granting of licenses, proofs of identification, clearances, certificates, or other documents usually required in the course of employment: *Provided, further*, That the application for such license, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other documents is submitted within one (1) year after graduating from high school, college or any vocational or technical course.

SEC. 3. *Proof of Graduation.* – A copy of the new graduate's diploma or a certification from the concerned academic, vocational or technical institution that the said graduate has successfully completed the course required must be submitted before

the waiver authorized under this Act can be availed of. The diploma or certification should clearly state the date of graduation or completion of the degree earned, and should be signed by the institution's duly authorized representative.

Such copy of the diploma or the certification submitted shall serve as *prima facie* evidence of the fact of graduation and shall be sufficient for the government agency concerned to grant the waiver: *Provided*, That any person found to be guilty of fabricating or falsifying any proof of graduation as described in this section shall be liable under Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code.

SEC. 4. *Exceptions.* – The fees and charges to be waived shall not include those collected in connection with an application to take a professional licensure examination conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission or an application for a Philippine passport.

SEC. 5. *Administrative Offenses.* – No government agency or instrumentality shall issue unduly restrictive regulations which will render nugatory the benefit of the waiver as prescribed under this Act. Such shall constitute an administrative offense punishable under the Administrative Code and other pertinent laws.

SEC. 6. *Interagency Monitoring Committee.* – An interagency monitoring committee is hereby created with the Executive Secretary as Chairperson, and the heads of the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Finance, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education and other departments whose participation the committee may deem necessary as its members. 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.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,