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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
848
House Bill No. _____

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Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As caretakers of children in the absence of their parents who work during the day or even beyond the call of duty, day care workers deserve only the best treatment by the State. In their hands are the future leaders and foremost personalities in Philippine politics, business, science and technology, culture and the arts. Day care workers must effectively discharge their duties and responsibilities. These can only be achieved if the State equips them with the appropriate incentives and benefits in addition to the training they have to undergo.

Presently, however, the 50,909 or so strong day care workers across the country are bereft of the appropriate salary and other appurtenant benefits, making them less efficient in performing their functions. This proposed bill seeks to address this issue.

During the 16th Congress, a substitute bill on this subject was approved on 2nd Reading by the House Plenary. Due to time constraints, however, no further action was taken. This bill is filed for the consideration of the 17th Congress.

Support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.



REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

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House Bill No. 848

Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF DAY CARE WORKERS AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Magna Carta of Day Care Workers*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* - The State recognizes the vital role of children and youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. Towards this end, the State shall adopt policies that will improve the social and economic welfare of day care workers who provide pre-school education and social development services to children.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act covers all day care workers, also referred to as Child Development Workers in R.A. No. 10410, otherwise known as *The Early Years Act (EYA)*, herein defined as persons primarily engaged in the provision of early child development services and programs such as care, social development, education, protection, and other needs of the children aged four (4) years old and below in all government-sponsored day care centers.

SEC. 4. *Plantilla Positions and Security of Tenure in Day Care Centers.* – At least one (1) Day Care Worker I and one (1) Day Care Worker II plantilla positions shall be created in all day care centers nationwide. As plantilla position holders, day care workers shall be appointed under permanent status and governed by Civil Service rules and regulations. No day care worker shall be removed or transferred without just cause, due process, or prior consultation with the concerned day care worker.

SEC. 5. *Recruitment and Selection/Creation of Special Selection Board.* – Upon publication and posting by the local Human Resource Management Office (HMRO) of vacant permanent day care workers positions in particular day care centers, all qualified applicants shall submit their application together with complete requirements to the *Punong Barangay* who shall forthwith transmit the same to the HMRO for preliminary evaluation: *Provided*, That all qualified incumbent day care workers hired under casual, contractual, and job order employment status shall automatically be considered candidates and given priority for appointment to permanent day care worker positions.

Special Personnel Selection Board (SPSB) for day care worker positions shall be created to screen candidates and create a pool of ten (10) qualified applicants for possible appointment to the subject positions. The SPSB shall be composed of the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer as chair, the *Punong Barangay*, Local Health Officer, Human Resource Management Officer and local government unit (LGU) first level employees' representative as members.

The Local Chief Executive, as the appointing authority, shall exercise sound discretion in selecting from the SPSB-recommended pool the most qualified for appointment to the day care worker position in a particular day care center.

SEC. 6. *Qualifications, Positions and Salary Grade.* – A day care worker possessing the following qualifications shall be hired to the position of Day Care Worker I, and entitled to Salary Grade Six (6):

- 1.) Must be of legal age: *Provided*, That day care workers legitimately serving as such upon the passage of this Act who are above seventeen (17) years old but below eighteen (18) years old, shall continue to serve as such and are qualified to be covered under this Act; *Provided, further*, That their retention had been recommended by their direct supervisor;
- 2.) Must have completed at least two (2) years of college education: *Provided*, That day care workers who have no college education upon the effectivity of this Act shall be given two (2) years within which to complete equivalent training to be able to continue in the service, in accordance with Section 9 hereof. The necessary training courses shall be prescribed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- 3.) Must be certified by the DSWD or DSWD-deputized entities as having complied with existing requisites and trainings in early childhood care and development;
- 4.) Must not have been convicted by final judgment of any crime; and
- 5.) Must not have a pending case pertinent to R.A. No. 7610, otherwise known as *Special Protection on Children against Child Abuse*.

A day care worker who possesses all the above qualifications, has at least five (5) years of working experience as such, and has completed more than twelve (12) hours of relevant training, shall be hired as Day Care Worker II, and entitled to Salary Grade Eight (8).

Qualifications and exceptions applicable to this Section shall be subject to conditions imposed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

SEC. 7. *Additional Compensation and Allowances.* – Day care workers shall be provided with the following additional compensation, whenever applicable:

a. Overtime pay – for services rendered beyond the required working hours as prescribed under Section 12 hereof;

b. Hazard Allowance – for being exposed to situations, conditions or factors in the workplace which adversely endanger the workers' health or life and or increase the danger or risk in the exercise of their duties. Such risk or danger shall be determined by the local *Sangguniang Barangay* concerned; and

c. Subsistence Allowance – for services rendered within the premises of isolated day care centers equivalent to the meals they take in the course of their duty, which shall be computed in accordance with prevailing circumstances as determined by the local *Sangguniang Barangay* concerned.

SEC. 8. *Other Benefits and Privileges.* – Day care workers shall be entitled to the following additional benefits and privileges:

a. Married Day Care Workers – Whenever possible, married couples who are both day care workers shall be assigned in the same municipality or city;

b. Right to Self-Organization – Day care workers shall have the freedom to organize themselves and under no circumstance may be dismissed from work on the basis of membership in such organization;

c. Free Legal Services – The Public Attorney's Office (PAO) shall represent day care workers in all cases filed against them in connection with the performance of their duties;

d. Free Medical Examination and Treatment – Annual medical examinations shall be provided by government hospitals, free of charge to all day care workers. Day care workers suffering from work-related ailments shall be treated without cost in government hospitals;

e. Preferential access to Livelihood Loans, Grants and Skills Enhancement – The DSWD and the LGUs, in coordination with other concerned government agencies, shall provide organized day care workers with a mechanism for accessing livelihood, loans, grants and skills enhancement services; and

f. Other benefits – All day care workers shall automatically become members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), PAG-IBIG and Philhealth, subject to premium payments by both employers and employees, and shall be entitled to maternity/paternity, sick and vacation leaves as provided by existing laws.

SEC. 9. *Training, Education and Skills Enhancement.* – The DSWD, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall provide for a system of continuing education and skills, training and knowledge enhancement programs for day care workers.

An equivalency system of education, which shall provide for the recognition of the actual work experiences and prior learning of day care workers, shall be adopted by the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA for possible accreditation into formal academic or training units.

SEC. 10. *Support from Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).* – Non-government organizations or private volunteer organizations are hereby encouraged to assist or support the government in the implementation of programs and projects for day care workers. As such, all day care centers are allowed to accept any assistance or support from NGOs.

SEC. 11. *Code of Conduct of Day Care Workers.* – Within six (6) months upon approval of this Act, the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council, in consultation with the national organization of day care workers, shall formulate a Code of Conduct for Day Care Workers. Each day care worker shall be provided with a copy of the Code at the expense of the government.

SEC. 12. *Working Hours.* – A day care worker is required to render eight (8) working hours a day or a total of forty (40) working hours a week; *Provided,* That the local social welfare officer may require day care workers to render services beyond their required working hours during emergency situations such as natural and man-made calamities.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DSWD, the ECCD Council and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with the CSC and the national organization of day care workers, shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within six (6) months from its effectivity.

SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to cover the salaries and benefits of day care workers shall be charged from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and the Special Education Fund (SEF) of LGUs concerned. *Provided,* That the national government shall provide subsidy for at least one (1) day care worker per center in the fourth, fifth and sixth class municipalities. A portion of the contribution of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) as provided under R.A. No. 10410 as well as additional funds generated from donations, fees and contributions collected by the ECCD Council from whatever source shall also be set aside for the purpose.

SEC. 15. *Penal Provisions.* – Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall be punished with a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than two (2) months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a public official, the offender shall, in addition to the penalties stated above, be dismissed from government service and shall be perpetually disqualified from assuming any public office.

SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act or any part thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions.

SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* - Republic Act No. 6972 otherwise known as the *Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children* and all laws, decrees rules and regulations, and executive orders contrary to or inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,