Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5497

Introduced by ANG PROBINSYANO
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It takes a village to raise a child. However, because of some influences in our culture, child-rearing has been designated to the nuclear family. This vital societal role has been solely entrusted to the parents of the child. In some more conservative settings, it is seen solely as the responsibility of the mother.

Now when it comes to solo parents, the already-lacking social expectation means double the effort. A single parent must now be able to responsibly and dutifully raise their children while being able to provide for their economic needs. Especially for the less-advantaged, this presents a monumental challenge.

The State, in its role as parens patriae has a substantial interest in ensuring that each family is able to rear their children without additional burdens. Thus, the State should put forward measures to ensure that the already difficult predicament of solo parents be made easier so that their children would not be neglected and would be cared for physically, mentally, and emotionally.

This proposed Act would greatly aid our solo parents in their struggle to be there for their children. It takes a village to raise a child. This Act is the village lending its aid.

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

ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party List
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5497

Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

---

AN ACT
GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES FOR SOLO PARENTS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8972

*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 “Expanded Solo Parents’ Act.”

SECTION 2. Section 3 of Republic Act. No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – Whenever used in this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

a) ***

b) ***

c) ***

d) ***

e) ***

f) *Public transportation utilities* – refer to all Philippine common carriers engaged in the business of carrying or transporting passengers or goods by land, sea/water, or air, for compensation, offering their services to the public;
g) Public transportation utility operator – refers to the person or entity granted with a Certificate of Public Convenience by a regulatory agency to operate as a common carrier.

SECTION 3. Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended as follows:

"SECTION 12. Fare Discount Privilege. – A solo parent under this Act shall be entitled to a grant of twenty percent (20%) discount on domestic regular fares, upon presentation of their duly-issued identification card to be provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, subject to an appropriate verification mechanism to be provided in the implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 13. Other privileges. – Solo parents shall also be entitled to the following:

1) The grant of a minimum five percent (5%) discount relative to the monthly utilization of water and electricity supplied by the public utilities: Provided, that the individual meters for the foregoing utilities are registered in the name of the solo parent residing therein: Provided further, that the monthly consumption does not exceed one hundred kilowatt hours (100KWh) of electricity or thirty cubic meters (30 m³) of water.

2) The grant of twenty percent (20%) discount on the sale of the following goods and services from all establishments, for the exclusive use and enjoyment or avails of the solo parent:
   a. Purchase of medicines, and other essential medical supplies to be determined by the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH shall establish guidelines and mechanism of compulsory rebates in the sharing of burden of discounts among retailers, manufacturers, and distributors, taking into consideration their respective margins;
   b. On the professional fees of licensed health professionals providing home health care services as endorsed by private hospitals or employed through home health care employment agencies;
   c. On medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and home health care services, in accordance with the rules and regulations to be issued by the DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth);

SECTION 14. Enjoyment of Fare Discount and Other Privileges. – A solo parent who wishes to avail of the privileges provided under Sections 12 and 13 of this Act shall be required to furnish proof of their status as solo parents through proper documentation or identification as would be determined by the DSWD.

SECTION 15. Additional Powers and Functions of the DSWD. – The DSWD shall perform the following additional powers and functions relative to the welfare of solo parents and their families:

a) xxx

b) xxx
c) xxx

d) Provide the proper means or system of documentation/identification to enable solo parents to enjoy the privileges and benefits provided in Sections 12 and 13 of this Act."

SECTION 4. 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 5. 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 6. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,