



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2538

Introduced by Rep. AURELIO D. GONZALES, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

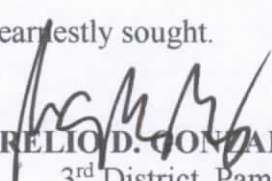
This bill seeks to expand the coverage and benefits given to solo parents and their children.

It's been two decades since Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parent's Welfare Act, was enacted into law. It has breathed life to the Constitution's mandate that "the State shall promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development." Providing benefits and privileges to solo parents and their children is the State's way of recognizing the efforts and sacrifices that solo parents must endure in raising and rearing their children.

In 2015, the Philippine Statistics Authority estimated about three million household heads without a spouse—two million of whom were female. The Federation of Solo Parents has a member base of 80,000.¹ With the changing times, solo parents are bound by the reality to solely raise their children and to cope with the challenges of providing for their physical, financial and psychological well-being—all in the face of economic difficulties, poverty and unemployment.

To address the financial concerns of solo parents and to ensure that the State's lofty mandate is attained, this bills seeks to provide (1) 10% discount on clothing for their child; (2) 15% discount on food up to two years from childbirth; (3) 15% discount on medicine and medical supply purchases until 5 years from childbirth; and (4) 20% discount on tuition and miscellaneous fees from grade school to college, among others. A penalty provision is also included in this proposal for violators of this Act.

In view of the foregoing consideration, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


AURELIO D. GONZALES, JR.
3rd District, Pampanga

¹ <https://cnnphilippines.com/life/culture/2018/03/27/single-mothers-Philippines.html>



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2538

Introduced by Rep. AURELIO D. GONZALES, JR.

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENT'S WELFARE ACT OF 2002, PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of the Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. - Whenever used in this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows;

(a) “Solo parent” - any individual who falls under any of the following categories:

x x x

A change in the status or circumstance of the parent claiming benefits under this Act, such that he/she is no longer left alone with the sole responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility for these benefits. Said benefits shall cease to be available by the end of the year when the parent was last deemed a solo parent as defined by this act. **PROVIDED, THAT, A SINGLE PARENT WHO IS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE CHILD'S OTHER PARENT SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS UNDER SECTION 12-A OF THE ACT.**

x x x”

SECTION 2. Section 8 of the Act is likewise amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 8. Parental Leave - In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days **WITH PAY** every year shall be granted

to any solo parent employee who has rendered service of at least [one (1) year] **SIX (6) MONTHS.**”

SECTION 3. There shall be created and inserted Section 12-A of the Act to read as follows:

“SECTION 12-A. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS. - IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING BENEFITS, SOLO PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED AS SUCH BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) SHALL LIKEWISE BE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

(1) TEN PERCENT (10%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF CLOTHING AND CLOTHING MATERIALS FOR THE CHILD MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF UP TO TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE CHILD’S BIRTH;

(2) FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF FOOD AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE CHILD’S BIRTH;

(3) FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF MEDICINES AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS/SUPPLIES FOR THE CHILD MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE CHILD’S BIRTH;

(4) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT ON TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES FROM GRADE SCHOOL TO COLLEGE;

COMPANIES OR BUSINESSES FROM WHOM DISCOUNTED PURCHASES ARE MADE AS PER THE IMMEDIATELY FOREGOING SECTION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM THE SAID DISCOUNTS AS PART OF THEIR BUSINESS EXPENSE, PROVIDED THAT, THEY MAINTAIN DETAILED AND SEPARATE RECORDS OF SAID PURCHASES.”

SECTION 4. There shall also be created and inserted Section 12-B of the Act to read as follows:

“SECTION 12-B. SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD). - AS THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY OF THIS ACT, THE DSWD SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. THERE SHALL BE ISSUED AN IDENTIFICATION CARD (ID) TO SOLO PARENTS WHICH SHALL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR THE PROVISION OF OTHER BENEFITS INDICATED IN THIS ACT;

2. AN OFFICE OF SOLO PARENTS IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO SERVE AS HUB FOR SOLO PARENTS IN THE AREA, CREATING A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR EACH SOLO PARENTS; AND

3. THE DSWD SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO SOLO PARENTS.”

SECTION 5. There shall be created and inserted Section 13-A to read as follows:

SECTION 13-A. PENALTIES - ANY PERSON OR COMPANY WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT BY DENYING OR HINDERING A SOLO PARENT FROM AVAILING OF ANY OF THE BENEFITS OF THIS ACT SHALL BE PENALIZED BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P 50,000.00) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION; ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P 100,000.00) FOR THE SECOND VIOLATION; AND TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P 200,000.00) FOR THE THIRD VIOLATION.

IN ADDITION TO SAID FINE, THE SAID BUSINESS MAY BE ORDERED CLOSED BY THE APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY.”

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within a period of not more than sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Interagency Committee created by the Act shall come up with the rules and regulations necessary for the proper implementation of the amendments to the same.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - All provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the foregoing are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. - If any part, section or provision of the foregoing amendments are held invalid or declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - These amendments shall take effect after fifteen (15) from their publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of national circulation.

Approved.