

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10235**



Introduced by Hon. Christopher V.P. de Venecia, Hon. Angelo Marcos Barba, Hon. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Hon. Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte, Hon. Aloy Lim, Hon. Kristine Singson-Meehan, Hon. Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo, Hon. Ann K. Hofer, Hon. Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Hon. Ronnie L. Ong, Hon. Lianda B. Bolilia, Hon. John Reynald M. Tiangco, Hon. Angelica Natasha Co, Hon. Alfred C. Delos Santos, Hon. Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo, Hon. Vilma Santos-Recto, Hon. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez, Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago, Hon. Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Hon. Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D., Hon. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Hon. Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Hon. Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, Hon. Dan S. Fernandez, Hon. Alfred D. Vargas

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 12 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS "SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE,
EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 9231

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Republic Act No. 9231, which amends Republic Act No. 7610, children below the age of 15 are not allowed to be employed, permitted, or suffered to work, in any public or private establishment. The law provides two (2) exceptions to this rule, one of which is when the child's participation in public entertainment or public information is essential.

In our film and television industries especially, child actors are well-loved and treasured by many Filipinos worldwide.¹ In fact, many popular celebrities nowadays began their career as child actors, through their participation in movies, shows, commercials, advertising campaigns and plays.²

¹<https://www.esquiremag.ph/culture/arts-and-entertainment/filipino-child-actors-then-and-now-a00203-20201119-lfrm>

² *Ibid.*

Within our present law, there is currently a one-hour disparity between the prohibited working times of children under fifteen (15) years of age, and those between the ages of fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) years of age.

In particular, those under fifteen (15) may not work between eight o'clock in the evening, and six o'clock in the morning (8PM to 6AM), whereas those between fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) may not work between the hours of ten o'clock in the evening, to six o'clock in the morning (10PM to 6AM).

Aside from the existing prohibitions and requirements in R.A. 9231, there are currently many regulations in place which facilitate the work done by minors. An example of this is the requirement of a Working Child Permit (WCP), which has seventeen (17) documentary requirements, and is needed to be renewed yearly.³

Those in the creative and advertising industries, such as filmmakers, producers, directors, brand managers, and talent managers, are known to follow these requirements strictly, thus ensuring the protection of child workers. However, many also find the current prohibitions on working hours too restrictive, and are often burdened by the disparity in the law. For example, in a production with multiple child actors, those aged fourteen (14) would be required to stop working at eight o'clock in the evening, while those aged fifteen (15) would be able to continue until ten o'clock in the evening, despite only one year, or few months difference in their ages.

In other jurisdictions, such as in Taiwan⁴, and Thailand⁵, their labor legislation is uniform in providing only one time frame restricting the hours for when child workers may work. There is no difference between those in different age groups, and all minors are given the same time restrictions with regards to hours of work. These countries are known as a popular location for filming, especially because these time restrictions are appealing to creatives who require minors in their films and shows.⁶

This bill aims to provide a uniform time in which children are not allowed to work, by prohibiting all minors, or those under eighteen (18) years of age, from working between eleven o'clock in the evening to seven o'clock in the morning (11PM to 7AM). This bill seeks to remove the current staggered time, by removing the differentiation between age groups.

³ <https://bWSC.dole.gov.ph/programs-and-projects-submenu1/clpep/working-child-permit-wcp.html>

⁴ Article 48, Taiwan Labor Standards Act
(<https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?pcode=N0030001>)

⁵ Section 47, Thailand Labor Protection Act (<https://library.siam-legal.com/thai-law/labor-protection-act-young-workers-sections-44-52/>)


⁶ <https://www.kuoni.co.uk/thailand/thailands-top-movie-locations>

This bill will also allow for those in the creative industries, including child actors themselves, to maximize their available working hours, while still following the State's declared policy of providing special protection to children, and preventing conditions prejudicial to their development.⁷

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


**HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE
VENECIA**


HON. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

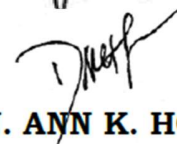

**HON. DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV"
B. SAVELLANO**


HON. MARLYN "LEN" B. ALONTE


HON. ALOY LIM

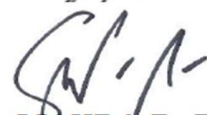

HON. KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN


HON. MA. LOURDES T. ARROYO


HON. ANN K. HOFER


HON. MANUEL T. SAGARBARRIA


HON. RONNEL L. ONG


HON. LIANDA B. BOLILIA


HON. JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO


HON. ANGELICA NATASHA CO


HON. ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

⁷ Section 1, R.A. 9321



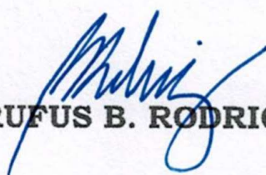
HON. ANTHONY PETER "ONYX" D.
CRISOLOGO



HON. VILMA SANTOS-RECTO



HON. JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL
ARROYO



HON. RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ



HON. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO



HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING



HON. SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, M.D.



HON. LUISA LOREN CUARESMA



HON. FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES



HON. ROSANNA "RIA" V. VERGARA



HON. DAN S. FERNANDEZ



HON. ALFRED D. VARGAS

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

SECTION 1. Article 12-A, Paragraph 3, of Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act", as amended by Republic Act No. 9231, is hereby amended as follows:

"Sec. 12-A. Hours of Work of a Working Child. - Under the exceptions provided in Section 12 of this Act, as amended:

xxx

(3) No child below eighteen (18) years of age shall be allowed between eleven o'clock in the evening and seven o'clock in the morning of the following day."

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* — All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and two (2) newspapers of national circulation.