



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress

First Regular Session

3088

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by

**HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ and
HON. DAVID C. SUAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to further the welfare of the parents and their children as declared in Article II, Section 12, which partly provides that 'the natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government'.

Thus, pursuant to the aforementioned constitutional directive, Republic Act No. 8972, also known as the 'Solo Parent's Welfare Act', was passed extending benefits and privileges to solo parents and their children. The law aims to develop and provide a comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their children which will be carried out by concerned government agencies and non-government organizations. The benefits include livelihood development, counseling, parent effectiveness services, parental leave, scholarship programs for parents and children, non-formal education and medical assistance.

However, the current package of benefits and privileges given to single parents under the law has become inadequate to cover the needs of the single

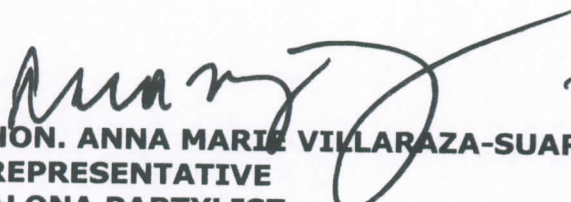
parents and their families in the light of recent economic developments particularly the rising inflation and stagnant wages.

Hence, in order to further enhance their purchasing power, there is a necessity to amend the law and provide additional benefits to solo parents to ease their financial difficulties and assist them in fulfilling their duties of singlehandedly providing for their children and relatives dependent upon them for support.

Under this bill, solo parents are entitled to a fifteen percent (15%) discount on medicines, vaccines and other medical supplements, supplies, accessories and equipment for the child until he or she is five (5) years of age. In addition, they are also given a ten percent (10%) discount on all purchases of a child's clothing needs, as well fifteen percent (15%) discount on purchases of baby's food and supplements, both within two (2) years from the child's birth. Moreover, solo parents shall be entitled to a twenty percent (20%) on all purchases of school supplies for the child until the child reaches the age of 21 years old, and to a ten percent (10%) discount on tuition fees from both private and public schools from grade school (in case of private schools) to college.

This measure also grants solo parents an additional P50,000 personal exemption from the individual income tax on top of the existing exemption that they can claim for their children.

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



HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
REPRESENTATIVE
ALONA PARTYLIST



HON. DAVID C. SUAREZ
REPRESENTATIVE
2ND DISTRICT, QUEZON



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House Bill No. 3088

Introduced by

**HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ and
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**AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOLO
PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000', PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS
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 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) 'Solo parent' - any individual who falls under any of the following categories:

(1) xxxxx

xxxxx

(5) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or de facto separation from spouse for at least

[~~one (1) year~~] **SIX (6) MONTHS**, provided he or she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

XXXX

- (9) Any other person who [~~solely provides parental care and support to a child or children~~] **BEARS SOLE PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY OVER A CHILD OR CHILDREN, INCLUDING A FOSTER PARENT DULY-RECOGNIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, A LEGAL GUARDIAN APPOINTED BY THE COURT OR A LEGAL SINGLE ADOPTIVE PARENT;** and,

XXXXX

XXXXX

XXXXX

SECTION 2. A new section is hereby inserted as Section 4-A of Republic Act No. 8972 to read as follows:

SECTION 4-A. SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD (SPIC). - THE LOCAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (LSWDO) SHALL ISSUE THE SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD UPON THE PRESENTATION OF THE APPLICANT OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- (B) BARANGAY CERTIFICATION CERTIFYING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY FOR THE LAST SIX (6) MONTHS PRECEDING THE APPLICATION;**
- (C) BARANGAY CERTIFICATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT QUALIFIES THE APPLICANT AS A SOLO PARENT AS REQUIRED BY THIS ACT;**
- (D) CERTIFICATION FROM THE PROPER GOVERNMENT AGENCY AS PROOF OF BIRTH OF CHILD OR CHILDREN, DEATH OF PARENTS OR SPOUSE AND OTHER DOCUMENTARY SUPPORT TO ATTEST THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT QUALIFIES THE APPLICANT AS A SOLO PARENT; AND,**
- (E) INCOME TAX RETURN OR ANY EQUIVALENT DOCUMENT THAT ESTABLISHES THE INCOME OR FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE SOLO PARENT APPLICANT.**

THE SPIC SHALL BE ISSUED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM APPLICATION THEREOF AND SHALL BE VALID FOR ONE (1) YEAR UPON ISSUANCE SUBJECT TO RENEWAL.

SECTION 3. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 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 regardless of employment status who has rendered service of at least ~~[one (1) year]~~ **SIX (6) MONTHS.**

SECTION 4. A new section is hereby inserted as Section 12-A of Republic Act No. 8972 to read as follows:

SECTION 12-A. 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 BABY'S MILK, FOOD AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE CHILD' BIRTH;**
- (3) FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF MEDICINES AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS OR SUPPLIES FOR THE CHILD MADE WITHIN A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH;**
- (4) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT FROM ALL PURCHASES OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE CHILD FOR PURCHASES MADE FROM THE CHILD'S BIRTH UNTIL TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE;**
- (5) TAX AMNESTY AND OR REDUCTION OF REAL ESTATE OR INHERITANCE TAXES OF SOLO PARENTS;**
- (6) BASIC PERSONAL EXEMPTION FROM INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50, 000.00) IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING EXEMPTION THAT THE SINGLE PARENT MAY CLAIM FOR HIS OR HER DEPENDENT CHILD OR CHILDREN; AND,**

(7) TEN PERCENT (10%) TUITION FEE DISCOUNT FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR THE CHILD OR CHILDREN FROM GRADE SCHOOL (IN CASE OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS) TO COLLEGE.

COMPANIES OR BUSINESSES FROM WHOM DISCOUNTED PURCHASES ARE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRECEDING 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 5. A new section is hereby inserted as Section 13-A of Republic Act No. 8972 to read as follows:

SECTION 13-A. PENALTIES - ANY PERSON, CORPORATION, ENTITY OR AGENCY WHICH REFUSES OR FAILS TO PROVIDE THE BENEFITS GRANTED TO SOLO PARENTS IN VIOLATION OF THIS ACT SHALL SUFFER THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:

- (1) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION - A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.**
- (2) FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION - A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN ONE (1) YEAR BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.**

ANY PERSON WHO MISINTERPRETS THE STATUS OR FALSIFIES ANY DOCUMENT TO AVAIL OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT, OR ANY PERSON WHO ABUSES THE PRIVILEGES GRANTED HEREIN SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH A FINE NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) AND IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS.

IF THE OFFENDER IS A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP OR ORGANIZATION OR ANY SIMILAR ENTITY, EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS THEREFORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED SHALL INDIVIDUALLY BE HELD LIABLE THEREFORE.

IF THE VIOLATOR IS AN ALIEN OR A FOREIGNER, HE SHALL BE DEPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE WITHOUT FURTHER DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS.

UPON FILING OF AN APPROPRIATE COMPLAINT AND AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, THE PROPER AUTHORITIES MAY ALSO CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OR REVOCATION OF THE BUSINESS PERMIT, PERMIT TO OPERATE, FRANCHISE AND OTHER SIMILAR PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO ANY BUSINESS THAT FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

UPON FINDING OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE THAT A DEPARTMENT, AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT, A GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATION (GOCC) OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT HAD VIOLATED ANY PROVISION OF THIS ACT, SANCTIONS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, CIVIL SERVICE OR OTHER LAWS MAY BE RECOMMENDED TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) OR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) AGAINST THE HEAD OF THE AGENCY OR THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE PERSON DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLATION.

SECTION 6. *Rules and Regulations of the Interagency Committee.* - Within a period of not more than sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Interagency Committee created under Republic Act No, 8972 shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause* - all laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.