

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

5497

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



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
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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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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:*

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Expanded Solo
2 Parents’ Act.”

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

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

8 a) xxx

9
10 b) xxx

11
12 c) xxx

13
14
15 d) xxx

16
17 e) xxx

18
19
20 f) *Public transportation utilities* – refer to all Philippine common carriers
21 engaged in the business of carrying or transporting passengers or goods
22 by land, sea/water, or air, for compensation, offering their services to the
23 public;
24

- 1 g) *Public transportation utility operator* – refers to the person or entity granted
2 with a Certificate of Public Convenience by a regulatory agency to operate
3 as a common carrier.”
4

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

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

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

- 13 1) The grant of a minimum five percent (5%) discount relative to the monthly
14 utilization of water and electricity supplied by the public utilities: *Provided,*
15 that the individual meters for the foregoing utilities are registered in the
16 name of the solo parent residing therein: *Provided further,* that the monthly
17 consumption does not exceed one hundred kilowatt hours (100KWh) of
18 electricity or thirty cubic meters (30 m³) of water.
19
20 2) The grant of twenty percent (20%) discount on the sale of the following
21 goods and services from all establishments, for the exclusive use and
22 enjoyment or availment of the solo parent:
23 a. Purchase of medicines, and other essential medical supplies to be
24 determined by the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH shall
25 establish guidelines and mechanism of compulsory rebates in the
26 sharing of burden of discounts among retailers, manufacturers, and
27 distributors, taking into consideration their respective margins;
28 b. On the professional fees of licensed health professionals providing
29 home health care services as endorsed by private hospitals or
30 employed through home health care employment agencies;
31 c. On medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees in
32 all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and home
33 health care services, in accordance with the rules and regulations
34 to be issued by the DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Health
35 Insurance Corporation (Philhealth);
36

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

41
42 SECTION 15. *Additional Powers and Functions of the DSWD.* – The DSWD shall
43 perform the following additional powers and functions relative to the welfare
44 of solo parents and their families:

- 45 a) xxx
46
47 b) xxx

1
2
3 c) xxx

4 d) Provide the proper means or system of documentation/identification to
5 enable solo parents to enjoy the privileges and benefits provided in
6 Sections 12 and 13 of this Act.”
7

8 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and
9 proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are
10 hereby amended or modified accordingly.
11

12 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid
13 or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in
14 full force and effect.
15

16 SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
18

19 Approved,
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23