

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3513



Introduced by Representative Sol Aragones

EXPLANATORY NOTE


In today's society, it is not uncommon to see solo parents raising their kids. Currently, there are stand-alone solo parents in their families due to a variety of reasons, but usually due to marital separation, death of a partner, and poverty.

More often than not, being a solo parent is much more difficult. These solo parents must financially provide for their children on their own, attend to their needs alone, and teach them how to become good persons without the help of a partner. In order to address these inequalities and provide these solo parents the assistance needed to properly raise their children, our lawmakers enacted a law to help them.

Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parent's Welfare Act, was enacted to provide benefits and privileges to solo parents and their children. This was in recognition of the efforts and sacrifices that solo parents must endure in raising and rearing their children.

In order to ensure that the law's lofty objectives are attained, this proposed measure seeks to expand the coverage and benefits given to solo parents. As lawmakers, we must continue to provide any assistance that the State can provide to these disadvantaged sectors of society. In this manner, we are able to ensure that these solo parents raise and rear their children in the best manner possible and create good and responsible citizens of the country.

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


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3RD District, Laguna

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House Bill No. **3513**

Introduced by Representative Sol Aragon

1 **AN ACT**
2 **GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS**
3 **AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972,**
4 **OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT**
5 **OF 2000"**

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Sections 2 and 3 of Republic Act No. 8972 hereby amended to read as
9 follows:

10 "SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote
11 the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure
12 its total development. Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive
13 program of services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the
14 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of
15 Health (DOH), the [Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)]
16 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED)**, the Department of Interior
17 and Local Government (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),
18 the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the
19 National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Labor and Employment
20 (DOLE) and other related government and non-government agencies.

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

1 a) "Solo Parent" – any individual who falls under any of the following
2 categories:

3
4 (1) A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes
5 against chastity even without a final conviction of the
6 offender: Provided, That the mother keeps [and raises] the
7 child **AND BEARS SOLO AND LONE PARENTING**
8 **RESPONSIBILITY;**

9 XXX

10 (3) Parent [left solo or alone with the] **WHO BEARS SOLE**
11 **AND LONE PARENTING** responsibility [of parenthood]
12 while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a
13 criminal conviction for at least [one (1) year] **SIX (6)**
14 **MONTHS;**

15 XXX

16 (5) Parent [left solo or alone with the] **WHO BEARS SOLE**
17 **AND LONE PARENTING** responsibility [of parenthood]
18 due to legal separation or de facto separation from spouse for
19 at least [one (1) year] **SIX (6) MONTHS**, as long as [he/she]
20 **THE SOLO PARENT** is entrusted with the custody of
21 children;

22 XXX

23 (7) Parent [left solo or alone with the] **WHO BEARS SOLO**
24 **AND LONE PARENTING** responsibility of parenthood
25 due to abandonment of spouse for at least [one (1) year] **SIX**
26 **(6) MONTHS;**

27 XXX

28 (9) Any [other person] **LEGAL GUARDIAN, ADOPTIVE**
29 **OR FOSTER PARENT** who solely provides parental care
30 and support to a child or children;

31 XXX

1 (11) PARENT WHO BEARS SOLO AND LONE
2 PARENTING RESPONSIBILITY DUE TO
3 DISABILITY OR INCAPACITY OF THE OTHER
4 SPOUSE TO BE EMPLOYED FOR AT LEAST SIX (6)
5 MONTHS;

6 XXX

7 e) "Flexible work schedule" – is the right granted to a solo parent
8 employee to vary [his/her] **THE** arrival and departure time **IN THE**
9 **OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT** without affecting the core work hours
10 as defined by the employer."

11 **SECTION 2.** Sections 4 and 5 of the same Act are hereby amended to read as follows:

12 "SEC. 4. *Criteria for Support.* – Any solo parent whose income in the
13 place of domicile falls below the poverty threshold as set by the [National
14 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)] **NATIONAL STATISTICS**
15 **COORDINATION BOARD (NCSB)**, [and] subject to the assessment of the
16 [DSWD worker] **CITY OR MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND**
17 **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER** in the area **WHERE THE SOLO PARENTS**
18 **RESIDES**, shall be eligible for assistance: Provided, however, That any solo
19 parent whose income is above the poverty threshold shall enjoy the benefits
20 mentioned in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Act.

21 SEC. 5. *Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare Services.*
22 – A comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents
23 and their families [will] **SHALL** be developed by the [DSWD] **SECRETARY OF**
24 **SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH**
25 **THE DOH, [DECS] DEPED, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA, [and] DILG,**
26 **DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), BUREAU OF INTERNAL**
27 **REVENUE (BIR), NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT**
28 **AUTHORITY (NEDA), CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC), NATIONAL**
29 **COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES (NCWP), UNION OF LOCAL**
30 **AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (ULAP), [in coordination with and] local**

1 government units, and a non-governmental organization with proven track record in
2 providing services to solo parents.

3 XXX”

4 **SECTION 3.** Sections 8, 9 and 10 of the same Act are hereby amended to read as
5 follows:

6 “SEC. 8. *Parental Leave.* – In addition to leave privileges under existing laws,
7 parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days every year shall be granted to
8 any solo parent employee who has rendered service of at least [one (1) year] **SIX (6)**
9 **MONTHS.**

10 SEC. 9. *Educational Benefits.* – The [DECS] **DEPED, CHED and TESDA**
11 shall provide the following benefits and privileges:

12 (1) Scholarship programs for qualified solo parents and their children in
13 institutions of basic, tertiary, and technical **OR VOCATIONAL** skills
14 education; and

15 XXX

16 SEC. 10. *Housing Benefits.* – Solo parents shall be given allocation in housing
17 projects and shall be provided with liberal terms of payment on said government low-cost
18 housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions prioritizing applicants below
19 poverty line as declared by the [NEDA] **NSCB.**”

20 **SECTION 4.** New sections to be denominated as Sections 13, 14, 15 and 16 are hereby
21 added to read as follows:

22 **SEC. 13. SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD (SPIC).** – UPON
23 APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPER DOCUMENTS, AN
24 IDENTIFICATION CARD APPROVED BY THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE
25 WHERE THE SOLO PARENT RESIDES, SHALL BE ISSUED TO THE
26 QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT BY THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL SOCIAL
27 WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

1 **SEC. 14. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS. – A SOLO PARENT SHALL**
2 **BE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:**

3 **A) TEN PERCENT (10%) DISCOUNT ON CHILDREN’S**
4 **CLOTHING MATERIALS FOR ALL PURCHASES MADE**
5 **WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD**
6 **OF THE SOLO PARENT;**

7 **B) FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT ON BABY’S**
8 **MILK, FOOD AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS FOR ALL**
9 **PURCHASES MADE WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE**
10 **BIRTH OF THE CHILD OF THE SOLO PARENT;**

11 **C) FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) DISCOUNT ON ALL**
12 **PURCHASES OF THE SOLO PARENT OF MEDICINES AND**
13 **OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS OR SUPPLIES THAT**
14 **SHALL BE USED BY THE CHILD WHO ARE FIVE (5) YEARS**
15 **OLD AND BELOW.**

16 **TO AVAIL OF THESE BENEFITS, THE SOLO PARENT SHALL**
17 **SUBMIT OR PRESENT THE SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION**
18 **CARD AND THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR OTHER**
19 **EVIDENCE OF ENTITLEMENT.**

20 **THE CORPORATION OR BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT THAT**
21 **GIVES A DISCOUNT TO THE SOLO PARENT IN ACCORDANCE**
22 **WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM THE**
23 **DISCOUNT GIVEN AS A BUSINESS EXPENSE SUBJECT TO PROPER**
24 **RECORDING AND DOCUMENTATION.**

25 **SEC. 15. INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING AND**
26 **MONITORING COMMITTEE. – A SPECIAL INTER-AGENCY**
27 **COMMITTEE, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE**
28 **COMMITTEE, SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE AND**
29 **MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. THE**
30 **COMMITTEE, WHICH SHALL CONSTITUTED WITHIN NINETY**

1 (90) DAYS UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, SHALL BE
2 COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 3 A) SECRETARY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
4 DEVELOPMENT, AS CHAIRPERSON;
- 5 B) SECRETARY OF HEALTH OR AUTHORIZED
6 REPRESENTATIVE;
- 7 C) SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OR AUTHORIZED
8 REPRESENTATIVE;
- 9 D) SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OR
10 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 11 E) SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
12 OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 13 F) SECRETARY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY OR
14 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 15 G) COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE;
- 16 H) CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER
17 EDUCATION;
- 18 I) CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON CIVIL
19 SERVICE;
- 20 J) CHAIRPERSON OF PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON
21 WOMEN;
- 22 K) DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION
23 AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;
- 24 L) DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC
25 AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;
- 26 M) GENERAL MANAGER OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING
27 AUTHORITY;
- 28 N) CHAIRPERSON OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
29 MUSLIM FILIPINOS (NCMF);
- 30 O) NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
31 (NCIP); AND
- 32 P) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF LOCAL
33 AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS MEMBERS.

1 **THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A REGULAR REPORT TO**
2 **CONGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT EVERY**
3 **THREE (3) YEARS FOLLOWING ITS EFFECTIVITY.**

4 **SEC. 16. PENALTIES. – ANY PERSON, CORPORATION,**
5 **ENTITY OR AGENCY WHO REFUSES OR FAILS TO PROVIDE THE**
6 **BENEFITS GRANTED TO THE SOLO PARENT IN VIOLATION OF**
7 **THIS ACT SHALL SUFFER THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:**

8 **1) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION – A FINE OF NOT LESS**
9 **THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT**
10 **MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR**
11 **IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS**
12 **BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, OR BOTH, AT THE**
13 **DISCRETION OF THE COURT;**

14 **2) FOR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS – A FINE OF NOT LESS**
15 **THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00)**
16 **BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND**
17 **PESOS (P200,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS**
18 **THAN ONE (1) YEAR BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO (2)**
19 **YEARS, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.**

20 **IF THE OFFENDER IS A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP,**
21 **ORGANIZATION OR ANY SIMILAR ENTITY, THE EMPLOYEES**
22 **AND OFFICIALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED SUCH AS THE**
23 **PRESIDENT, GENERAL MANAGER, MANAGING PARTNER OR**
24 **OTHER OFFICER CHARGED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF ITS**
25 **AFFAIRS SHALL BE LIABLE THEREFOR.**

26 **IF THE OFFENDER IS AN ALIEN, THE OFFENDER SHALL BE**
27 **DEPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE**
28 **WITHOUT FURTHER DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS.**

29 **UPON FILING OF AN APPROPRIATE COMPLAINT, AND**
30 **AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, THE PROPER AUTHORITIES**
31 **MAY ALSO CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OR REVOCATION OF**

1 THE BUSINESS PERMIT, PERMIT TO OPERATE, FRANCHISE AND
2 OTHER SIMILAR PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO ANY BUSINESS
3 ENTITY THAT FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
4 ACT.

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

12 UPON FINDING OF THE DSWD THAT A DEPARTMENT,
13 AGENCY, OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT, A
14 GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATION
15 (GOCC) OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, HAD VIOLATED ANY
16 PROVISION OF THIS ACT, SANCTIONS UNDER THE
17 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, CIVIL SERVICE OR OTHER LAWS MAY
18 BE RECOMMENDED TO THE CSC OR THE DILG AGAINST THE
19 HEAD OF AGENCY OR THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE
20 PERSON DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLATION.”

21 SECTION 5. Sections 13 and 14 of the same Act are hereby renumbered as Sections
22 17 and 18 and amended to read as follows:

23 “SEC. [13] 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – [An interagency
24 committee headed by] **WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM APPROVAL OF**
25 **THIS ACT**, the **DSWD SHALL**, in **CONSULTATION AND** coordination with the
26 **DOH, DEPED, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA, and DILG, DTI, BIR, NEDA, CSC,**
27 **NCMF, NCIP, PCW, AND ULAP** [is hereby established which shall formulate,
28 within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the implementing rules and
29 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act in consultation with the local
30 government units, non-governmental organizations and people’s organizations.],

1 **ISSUE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE**
2 **EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.**

3 SEC. [14] **18. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the
4 provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned government
5 agencies in the ANNUAL General Appropriations Act (GAA).

6 **“GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MAY UTILIZE A PORTION OF THEIR**
7 **RESPECTIVE BUDGET FOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ON GENDER**
8 **AND DEVELOPMENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT.**

9 **FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**
10 **REFERS TO PROCESSES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**
11 **TO ADDRESS GENDER ISSUES AND TRANSFORM THE SOCIAL,**
12 **ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES OF THE SOCIETY TO**
13 **ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPHASIZE THE FUNDAMENTAL**
14 **ROLE OF WOMEN AS ACTIVE AGENTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND NOT**
15 **JUST PASSIVE RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.”**

16 **SECTION 6.** Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the same Act, are hereby renumbered as
17 Sections 19, 20 and 21, respectively.

18 **SECTION 7.** This Act shall take effect (15) days after its complete publication in the
19 Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

20 *Approved.*