

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4206**



Introduced by **HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE ACT OF 2000, PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL  
BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the "Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000" was enacted to provide benefits and privileges to solo parents and their children. This is in recognition of the solo parents' efforts and the sacrifices they endure in raising and rearing their children.

Solo parents often find themselves desperate for resources to support their children who are left in their custody. Shorn of financial support because of the absence of a life partner, solo parents find themselves besieged by the burdens of solo parenting and sustaining the child's basic needs. Financial problems are more or less the first problem that most one-parent families face.

To ensure that the law's objectives are attained, the proposed bill seeks to expand the coverage and benefits of solo parents. Specifically, it provides twenty percent (20%) discount on tuition and miscellaneous fees, per child, from grade school to college on any educational institution and state colleges and universities. Single parents who receive support from the child's other parent, however, are ineligible to receive this benefit.

It is high time for the government to focus on the real situation and real needs and concerns of solo parents. The hardships of solo parenting may create other problems in society such as juvenile delinquency, drug problems and other consequences.

In view of the aforementioned, the passage of this bill is sought.

**HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**  
*Representative*  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte

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BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 9 of the Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"SEC. 9. Educational Benefits. –**

**X X X**

**(3) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT ON TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES FROM GRADE SCHOOL TO COLLEGE, IN ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, SHALL BE GRANTED TO EVERY CHILD OF QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS. PROVIDED THAT, A SINGLE PARENT WHO IS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE CHILD'S OTHER PARENT SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THIS BENEFIT.**

**X X X"**

**SECTION 2. PENALTIES. – ANY PERSON OR ESTABLISHMENT WHO VIOLATES**

**THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT BY DENYING OR HINDERING A SOLO PARENT FROM AVAILING ANY OF THESE BENEFITS SHALL SUFFER THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:**

- (A) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION, A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) BUT NOT EXCEEDING ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00);**
- (B) FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN SIX (6) YEARS AND A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT NOT EXCEEDING TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00); AND**
- (C) ANY PERSON WHO ABUSES THE PRIVILEGES GRANTED HEREIN SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN (6) YEARS, AND A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00)**

IF THE OFFENDER IS A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, ORGANIZATION OR ANY SIMILAR ENTITY, THE OFFICIALS THEREOF DIRECTLY INVOLVED SUCH AS THE PRESIDENT, GENERAL MANAGER, MANAGING PARTNER, OR SUCH OTHER OFFICER CHARGED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BUSINESS AFFAIRS SHALL BE LIABLE THEREFOR. IF THE OFFICER OF THE SAID CORPORATION IS AN ALIEN OR A FOREIGNER, HE/SHE SHALL BE DEPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE.

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 PERSON, ESTABLISHMENT OR BUSINESS ENTITY THAT FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT."

**SECTION 3. *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 these amendments, subject to the approval of Congress.

**SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

**SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Act, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof directly involved.

**SECTION 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.