


House Bill No. 5954



In 2017, the Department of Finance estimates that there are 2 million minimum wage earners. It is the intent of this bill to help alleviate their plight. With their very meager income, they are often burdened with the documentary costs incurred in their periodic job hunt. This is on top of the other related expenses like food and transportation. As they transfer from one short-term job to another, they need not suffer from the financial burden of repeatedly obtaining these government-issued documents.

Through the waiver of fees and charges for certain government requirements often required in the job application process, we are enacting a pro-poor legislation that will help them as they strive to provide a better future for their families. It is admitted that there might be a slight decrease in revenue as a result of this bill. However, it would be a small subsidy that would yield huge dividends with the increase in employment, productivity, and the contribution to the economy. This bill is a social legislation that is not a dole out. Rather it is a means of helping the ordinary Filipino have a gainful employment.

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


IRENE GAY F. SAULOG
Kalinga Party-list

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5954**

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE IRENE GAY F. SAULOG**

AN ACT
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS BY WAIVING
GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR
EMPLOYMENT

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Assistance to Minimum Wage Jobseekers Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby the policy of the State to protect the rights of workers, promote the welfare of workers, and promote equality of employment opportunities for all. As such, the State shall expand accessibility to government services and provide assistance to minimum wage jobseekers.

SEC. 3. Definition. A minimum wage jobseeker is either (a) a jobseeker who earned minimum wage or below in his/her previous employment or (b) a jobseeker who is applying for work that will pay him/her minimum wage or below.

SEC. 4. *Waiver of Fees and Charges.* – Subject to exceptions provided in Section 7 of this Act, all government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), local government units (LGUs), and government hospitals shall not collect fees or charges from a minimum wage jobseeker: Provided, That such fee or charge is paid in connection with the application for and the granting of licenses, proofs of identification, clearances, certificates or other documents usually required in the course of local employment.

SEC. 5. *Covered Governmental Transactions.* – No fees and other charges shall be collected from minimum wage jobseekers when obtaining the following, subject to the requirement in Section 6:

- (a) Police clearance certificate;
- (b) National Bureau of Investigation clearance;
- (c) Barangay clearance;
- (d) Medical certificate from a public hospital, provided that fees and charges collected for laboratory tests and other medical procedures required for the grant of a medical certificate shall not be free of charge;
- (e) Birth Certificate;
- (f) Marriage Certificate;
- (g) Transcript of academic records issued by state colleges and universities;
- (h) Tax Identification Number (TIN);

(i) Unified Multi-Purpose ID (UMID) card; and

(j) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be required by employers from job applicants.

SEC. 6. Proof of Eligibility. – Minimum wage jobseekers availing of the benefits provided under this Act shall present a barangay certification stating that the applicant is a minimum wage jobseeker: Provided, That before the issuance of the said certificate, the applicant shall submit proof of being a minimum wage jobseeker including but not limited to the following: payslip from previous employment, certification from previous employer, or certification from prospective employer. Provided further, That any person found guilty of fabrication or falsification shall be liable under the Revised Penal Code.

SEC. 7. Exceptions. – The waiver of fees and charges provided under this Act shall not include those collected in connection with an application to take a professional licensure examination conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission, application for a Philippine passport authentication and red ribbon of documents from the Department of Foreign Affairs, application for a Career Service Examination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and application for a driver's license from the Land Transportation Office.

SEC. 8. Non-Authority to Charge Fees. – This Act shall not be construed as an implied authority for all government agencies to impose or collect charges and fees in relation to the discharge of their functions if no such authority is already granted under their respective charters or other relevant laws.

SEC. 9. Interpretation in Favor of the Applicant. – In all cases, any ambiguity in the interpretation of the provisions of this Act shall be in favor of the applicant.

No government agency or instrumentality shall issue unduly restrictive regulations which will render nugatory the benefits provided under this Act. Such shall constitute an administrative offense punishable under the Administrative Code and other pertinent laws.

SEC. 10. *Monitoring.* – The Department of Labor and Employment shall monitor the compliance of the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, and may recommend the proper authorities the filing of an administrative complaint against any person who refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Labor and Employment shall, in consultation with other concerned agencies, issue the appropriate implementing rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,