

House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4829

Introduced by Representatives Dale "Along" R. Malapitan, Edward V.P. Maceda, Eric M. Martinez, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto and Rolando M. Valeriano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Unemployment in the Philippines stood at 5.4% base on the September quarter of 2019, which means that there are two million four hundred thirty two thousand (2,432,000) Filipinos who are in need of employment nowadays.

Unemployment delivers the unemployed to low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety. It brings with it unhappiness, anguish and despair. With the lost of income and the frustration in it, the person may develop negative attitudes toward common things in life and may feel that all sense of purpose is lost.

Yet, the most adverse effect of unemployment is that it breeds poverty. It makes both the unemployed and the nation to suffer fiscally as it does not only deprives the person of the means to support his and that of his family's basic needs, but also obliges the nation or government to deal with the lost of income, decreased production and additional spending for social welfare benefits.

Thus, unemployment is considered to be a serious problem which the government must address to alleviate poverty in the country. Productive work and/or gainful livelihood are the real long-term solutions to poverty. Thus, the poor should be assisted in finding decent work so that they will be able to liberate and lift themselves up from such a depressing condition.

Moreover, having a decent work is the real sustainable way to keep oneself and one's family from material destitution and deprivation. Finally, productive work is one of the ways for individuals and families to achieving a higher standard and better quality of life.

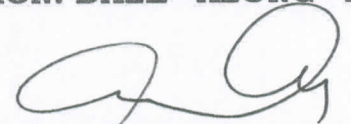
It is the intention of this proposed measure to encourage and assist the poor to seek and secure gainful employment by providing them a Twenty Percent (20%) discount in the payment of fees and charges for certain clearances and certificates issued by some government agencies which are required for pre-employment application.

By reducing some of their financial burdens in the process of finding jobs, the poor would be more active and motivated to find work. The proposed policy will not only benefit the poor, but also the whole economy and the country in the long-term once the poor become gainfully employed and more productive members of Philippine society.


Thus, the immediate enactment of this bill will be a contribution in reducing the incidence of poverty in our country.


HON. DALE "ALONG" R. MALAPITAN


HON. EDWARD V.P. MACEDA


HON. ERIC M. MARTINEZ


HON. ROLANDO M. VALERIANO


HON. JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 4829

Introduced by Rep. Dale "Along" R. Malapitan

AN ACT
PROVIDING 20% DISCOUNT FOR POOR JOB APPLICANTS IN THE
PAYMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN CERTIFICATES AND
CLEARANCES ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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

Section 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as the "Poor Job Applicants Discount Act".

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free from people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and improved quality of life for all. Toward this end, the State shall provide a Twenty Percent (20%) discount for poor job applicants in the payment of fees and charges for certain certificates and clearances issued by government agencies.

Sec. 3. Provision of Twenty Percent (20%) Discount - Poor job applicants shall be granted a Twenty Percent (20%) discount in the payment of fees and charges for the following clearances and certificates requisite for pre-employment application:

- (a) Clearance from the barangay where the applicant resides;
- (b) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- (c) Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- (d) Medical certificate for local employment from any government hospital licensed by the Department of Health (DOH), and medical certificate for foreign employment from any DOH-accredited medical facility for Filipino overseas workers;
- (e) Certificate of marriage from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); and
- (f) Certificate of live birth from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The poor job applicant may avail of the privileges under this Act only once every six (6) months from each government agency.

Sec. 4. Identification of Beneficiaries – For purpose of this Act, a poor job applicant refers to a person who is seeking gainful employment and has no visible means of income or whose income falls below the official poverty threshold, and as identified and certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) based on the criteria set-under the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) as established under Republic Act No. 11315.

Sec. 5. Penalties – a) Any public officer or employee who refuses or fails to provide the benefit granted to the poor job applicant in violation of Section 3 of this Act shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00).

Prosecution for an offense set forth in this Act shall be without prejudice to any liability for violation of any other existing laws, including civil service law, rules and regulations.

b) A job applicant who misrepresents or falsifies any document to avail of benefits provided under this Act or abuses the privilege granted herein shall be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 3185, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, and shall suffer perpetual disqualification from availing of the privileges under this Act.

Sec. 6. Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee – An inter-agency coordinating and monitoring committee shall be established to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6-A. Composition of the Committee– The Committee shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Secretary of Labor and Employment or his authorized representative as Chairperson;
- (b) National Statistician and Civil Registrar-General of the Philippine Statistics Authority or his authorized representative, as Vice Chairperson;
- (c) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government or his authorized representative as Member;
- (d) Secretary of Justice or his authorized representative as Member;
- (e) Chief of the Philippine National Police or his authorized representative as Member;
- (f) Director of the National Bureau of Investigation or his authorized representative as Member;
- (g) Secretary of Health or his authorized representative as Member; and
- (h) Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission or his authorized representative as Member.

Sec. 6-B. Functions of the Committee. – The Committee shall have the following functions:

- (a) To coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act;
- (b) To make recommendations for concerned agencies to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of benefit for poor job applicants under this Act; and
- (c) To submit an annual report to Congress on the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 7. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. - Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Congressional Oversight Committee is hereby constituted. The Committee shall set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It shall likewise determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend necessary remedial legislation or executive measures.

The Committee shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate as Co-Chairpersons, and six (6) members from each House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate President, respectively.

Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in consultation with Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG); National Bureau of Investigation (NBI); Philippine National Police (PNP); Department of Justice (DOJ); Department of Health (DOH); and, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 9. Separability Clause- If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions thereof not **otherwise** affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 10. Repealing Clause – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. Effectivity Clause- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.