

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. 2573



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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO  
AND JOCELYN P. TULFO

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB SEEKERS, DISCOUNTED OR WAIVED FEES  
AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PRE-EMPLOYMENT  
DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11291, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of the Poor, provides that it is the policy of the State to "uplift the standard of living and quality of life of the poor and provide them with sustained opportunities for growth and development" and to invest in "anti-poverty programs to enable the poor to fully participate in the country's growth and development."

In 2023, 15.5 percent of the country's population is considered poor according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. Thus, it is paramount that governmental aid is provided to these individuals to assist them in uplifting their standard of living. Towards these goals, this bill seeks to level the playing field and ease any financial hurdles for the poor to seek gainful employment and contribute in the economic development of the country. After all, the strength of a nation relies on a strong and robust workforce.

By extending financial assistance to qualified poor job applicants in relation to government clearances and certificates, they are given the opportunity to reallocate their resources to other expenses such as transportation, clothing, documentation, and other basic needs.

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

  
RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO  
*Representative*  
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1 The PSA, based on the criteria set under the Community-Based Monitoring  
2 System (CBMS) as established under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise known as the  
3 "Community-Based Monitoring System Act", shall validate the list of indigent  
4 households in the *Listahan* of the Department of Social Welfare Development Officer  
5 (LSWDO) of the city/municipality or any equivalent unit of the municipality where  
6 the indigent job seeker resides is authorized to issue a Certificate of Indigency based  
7 on the latest CBMS data, abovementioned criteria and established guidelines, as proof  
8 of eligibility of job seekers in availing the privileges provided for under this Act. Such  
9 certification shall be used in the future.

10  
11 For purposes of identifying indigent job seekers, any other unified targeting  
12 system duly agreed upon by the Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring  
13 Committee may be used in the future.

14  
15 An indigent job seeker whose household is enrolled under the seven-year  
16 period "*Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)*". Shall be automatically considered  
17 as "indigent" and eligible to avail of the privileges under this Act.

18  
19 First time job seekers who avail of waived government fees and charges in the  
20 issuance of pre-employment documents under Republic Act No. 11261, otherwise  
21 known as the "First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act" are not by this Act.

22  
23 **SEC. 4. *Twenty Percent (20%) Discount on Fees Charges for Clearance and***  
24 ***Certificates.*** - Indigent job seekers, whether here or abroad, shall be granted a twenty  
25 percent (20%) discount in the payment of fees and charges for the following clearances  
26 and certificates requisite for pre-employment application:

- 27  
28 (a) Clearance from the barangay where the job seeker resides;  
29 (b) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);  
30 (c) National Police Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);  
31 (d) Medical certificate for local employment from any government hospital  
32 licensed by the Department of Health (DOH), and medical certificate for  
33 foreign employment from any DOH-accredited medical facility for overseas  
34 workers and seafarers;  
35 (e) Certificate of marriage from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);  
36 (f) Certificate of live birth from the PSA;  
37 (g) National Certificate and Certificate of Competency (COC) from the  
38 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)  
39 (h) Certificate of Civil Service Eligibility from the Civil Service Commission  
40 (CSC); and  
41 (i) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be  
42 required by employers from indigent job seekers, as determined and  
43 approved by the Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee  
44 established in Section 6 of this Act.  
45

1           **SEC. 5. Waiver of Fees and Charges for Pre-Employment Documents.** – The fees  
2 and charges required to acquire the following pre-employment documents and cards  
3 shall be waived:  
4

- 5           (a) Tax Identification Number from the Bureau of Internal Revenue; and
- 6           (b) Transcript of Records, Transfer Credentials, Authenticated Copy of  
7           Diploma, and Certificate of Good Moral Character from the State  
8           Universities and Colleges, and local Universities and Colleges of the Job  
9           seeker.

10  
11           The indigent job seeker may avail of the privileges of waived or discounted fees  
12 under this Act only once every six (6) months from each government agency.  
13

14           **SEC. 6. Prohibited Acts and Penalties.** – (a) Any public officer or employee  
15 who refuses or fails to issue a Certificate of Indigency, or to provide the benefit  
16 granted to the indigent job seeker in violation of Sections 4 and 5 of this Act shall,  
17 upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000) but  
18 not more than twenty thousand pesos (P20,000). The penalty of temporary  
19 disqualification to hold public office for a period of five (5) years shall also be imposed.  
20

21           (b) A job seeker who misrepresents or falsifies any document to avail of benefits  
22 provided under this Act or abuses the privilege granted herein shall be prosecuted  
23 and punished in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 3815,  
24 as disqualification in availing the privileges under this Act.  
25

26           Administrative sanctions shall be imposed without prejudice to prosecution as  
27 provided for in this Act.  
28

29           Prosecution for an offense set forth in this Act shall be without prejudice to any  
30 liability for violation of any other existing laws, including civil service law, rules and  
31 regulations.  
32

33           **SEC. 7. Indigent Job Seekers Database.** – The Public Employment Service Office  
34 in coordination with the LSWDO shall establish and maintain a database system  
35 containing an updated roster of all indigent job seekers who availed of the benefits  
36 under this Act.  
37

38           The PhilJobnet platform of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)  
39 shall serve as the monitoring mechanism to record, monitor, and report the availment  
40 of the benefits granted to indigent job seekers.  
41

42           **SEC. 8. Non-Authority to Charge Fees.** – Other government agencies that do  
43 not charge fees in relation to the discharge of their functions cannot use this law to  
44 impose fees if no such authority is granted under their respective charter or other  
45 relevant laws.  
46

1           **SEC. 9. *Interagency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee.*** - An  
2 Interagency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee, hereinafter referred to as the  
3 Committee, shall be established to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this  
4 Act.

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6           The Committee shall be composed of the Secretary of the Labor and  
7 Employment or the authorized representatives, as Chairperson; Secretary of Interior  
8 and Local Government or his authorized representatives, as Vice Chairperson; and  
9 the following as members: Secretary of Migrant Workers or his authorized  
10 representatives; National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the PSA or his  
11 authorized representative; Chief of PNP or his authorized representative; Director of  
12 NBI or his authorized representative; Secretary of DOH or his authorized  
13 representative; Chairperson of the Commission on Civil Service (CSC) or his  
14 authorized representative; Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education  
15 (CHED) or his authorized representative; Director-General of TESDA or his  
16 authorized representative; Presidents of the Liga ng mga Barangay, League of  
17 Municipalities of the Philippines, and League of Cities of the Philippines or their  
18 authorized representative; Lead Governor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission  
19 (NAPC) or his authorized representative; and Chairperson of the National  
20 Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) or his authorized representative.

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22           The Committee shall have the following functions:

- 23  
24           (a) To coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act;  
25           (b) To make recommendations for concerned agencies to ensure the effective  
26           and efficient delivery of services in providing the benefits for indigent job  
27           seekers under this Act;  
28           (c) To identify and approve other pre-employment certificates and clearances;  
29           (d) To invite other agencies to be member of the Committee;  
30           (e) To review, evaluate, and amend accordingly the clearances and certificates  
31           covered under this Act; and  
32           (f) To submit an annual report to Congress on the implementation of this Act.

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34           **SEC. 10. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** - Upon the effectivity of  
35 this Act, a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee is hereby constituted. The JCOC  
36 shall set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It shall  
37 likewise recommend necessary remedial legislation, for a period not exceeding three  
38 (3) years.

39  
40           The JCOC shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the chairpersons  
41 of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and of the  
42 Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate as Co-  
43 Chairpersons, and six (6) members from each House, to be designated by the Speaker  
44 of the House of Representatives, and the Senate President, respectively.

1           The Secretariat of the JCOC shall be drawn from the existing personnel of the  
2 Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House Representatives, and the Committee  
3 on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate.  
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5           **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within six (6) months after the  
6 effectivity of this Act, the DOLE shall, in consultation with the Department of the  
7 Interior and Local Government, Department of Migrant Workers, PSA, PNP, NBI,  
8 DOH, CSC, CHED, TESDA, Leagues of Barangay, Municipalities, and Cities, NAPC  
9 and NCIP, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.  
10

11           **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is held  
12 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions hereof, not otherwise  
13 affected, shall remain in full force and effect.  
14

15           **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
16 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary  
17 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or  
18 modified accordingly.  
19

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