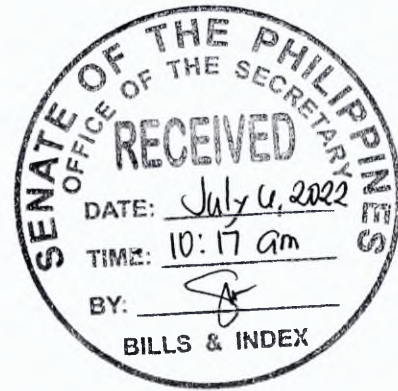


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

**SENATE**

S. No. 47



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**Introduced by SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING INDIGENT JOB APPLICANTS A TWENTY PERCENT (20%)  
DISCOUNT IN THE PAYMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN  
CERTIFICATES AND CLEARANCES ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution provides under Article II Section 9 that, "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

However, securing a decent job is not always easy and affordable. After surpassing stiff competition among limited job opportunities, numerous documents are often required from the qualified candidates prior to their employment. To be able to comply with the said requirements, the candidates have to visit or contact various government agencies and pay for the processing and issuance of the required documents.

These requirements prove costly especially to first time job seekers who are just about to start their career, as well as to indigent applicants whose current earnings, if any, is barely sufficient to address their daily basic needs.

In 2019, a law was passed to address this concern among first time jobseekers. Republic Act No. 11261, otherwise known as the "First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act" was signed into law on April 10, 2019 to expand the accessibility of government services to first time job seekers by waiving government fees and charges in the issuance of documents required in the application for employment.

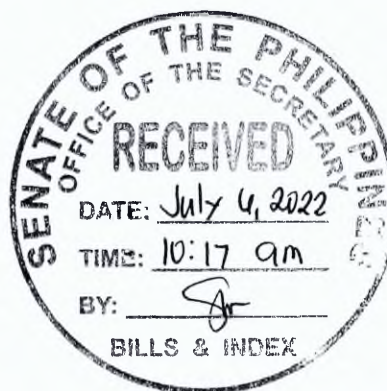
On the other hand, no law was passed to cater to similar concerns of job applicants who belong to indigent families. In this light, "*The Indigent Job Applicants Discount Act*" seeks to provide twenty percent (20%) discount for indigent job applicants in the payment of fees and charges for certain government-issued documents that are required for their employment. Qualified beneficiaries of the proposed bill is based on the criteria set under the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) established under Republic Act No. 11315 or the "Community-Based Monitoring System Act." Members of the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program" (4Ps) are also automatically considered as "poor" and are eligible beneficiaries of the proposed bill.

This measure was approved on Third and Final Reading by the House of Representatives during the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

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

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Indigent Job Applicants*  
2           *Discount Act.*"

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote a just  
4           and dynamic order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and  
5           free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,  
6           promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life  
7           for all.

8           Further, the State shall strive for a more equitable distribution of opportunities,  
9           income and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services  
10          produced by the nation for the benefit of the people, and an expanding productivity  
11          to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged. To this end, the  
12          State shall provide a twenty percent (20%) discount for indigent job applicants in the  
13          payment of fees and charges for certain certificates and clearances issued by  
14          government agencies.

15          Sec. 3. *Provision of Twenty Percent (20%) Discount.* – Indigent job applicants,  
16          whether here or abroad, shall be granted a twenty percent (20%) discount in the



1 payment of fees and charges for the following clearances and certificates requisite for  
2 pre-employment application:

- 3 a) Clearance from the barangay where the applicant resides;
- 4 b) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- 5 c) Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- 6 d) Medical certificate for local employment from any government hospital  
7 licensed by the Department of Health (DOH);
- 8 e) Certificate of marriage from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- 9 f) Certificate of live birth from the PSA;
- 10 g) Transcript of Records and authenticated copy of diploma from the state  
11 universities and colleges (SUCs) of the applicant;
- 12 h) Certificate of good moral character from the SUCs of the applicant;
- 13 i) Certificate of Civil Service Eligibility from the Civil Service Commission (CSC);
- 14 j) National Certificate (NC) and Certificate of Competency (COC) issued by the  
15 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- 16 k) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be  
17 required by employers from indigent job applicants.

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

20 *Sec. 4. Identification of Beneficiaries.* – As used in this Act, a poor job applicant  
21 refers to a person who is seeking gainful employment and has no visible means of  
22 income or whose income falls below the official poverty threshold, as identified and  
23 certified by the PSA based on the criteria set under the Community-Based Monitoring  
24 System (CBMS) as established under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise known as the  
25 “Community-Based Monitoring System Act.”

26 Members of the households of the “Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program” (4Ps)  
27 shall be automatically considered as “poor” and are eligible to avail of the privileges  
28 under this Act.

29 Social welfare officers of the local government units and barangay officials are  
30 hereby authorized to issue certification, using the abovementioned criteria and  
31 established guidelines, for this purpose as proof of eligibility of job applicants in

1 availing the privileges provided for under this Act. Such certification shall be free of  
2 charge.

3 *Sec. 5. Penalties. –*

4 a) Any public officer or employee who refused or fails to provide the benefit  
5 granted to the poor job applicant in violation of Section 3 of this Act shall, upon  
6 conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but  
7 not more than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00).

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

11 b) A job applicant who misrepresents or falsified any document to avail of  
12 benefits provided under this Act or abuses the privileges granted herein shall be  
13 prosecuted and punished in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Act No. 3815,  
14 as amended, otherwise known as "The Revised Penal Code", and shall suffer perpetual  
15 disqualification in availing the privileges under this Act.

16 *Sec. 6. Interagency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee. –* An interagency  
17 coordinating and monitoring committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee,  
18 shall be established to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this Act.

19 The Committee shall be composed of the following:

20 a) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or the  
21 authorized representative, as Chairperson;

22 b) National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the PSA or the authorized  
23 representative, as Vice Chairperson;

24 c) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)  
25 or the authorized representative, as Member;

26 d) Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) or the authorized  
27 representative, as Member;

28 e) Chief of the PNP or the authorized representative, as Member;

29 f) Director of the NBI or the authorized representative, as Member;

30 g) Secretary of the DOH or the authorized representative, as Member;

31 h) Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) or the  
32 authorized representative, as Member;

1 i) Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

2 The Committee shall have the following functions:

3 a) To coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of this Act;

4 b) To make recommendations for concerned agencies to ensure the effective  
5 and efficient delivery of benefits to poor job applicants under this Act.

6 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOLE, in consultation with  
7 the PSA, DILG, NBI, PNP, DOJ, DOH, NAPC, and the CHED, shall issue the necessary  
8 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months  
9 after the effectivity of this Act.

10 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise  
12 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

13 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
14 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or  
15 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended  
16 accordingly.

17 *Sec. 10. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
18 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*