

INFORMATION SHEET  
ON  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15  
RE 1484

'93 DEC 21 P4:48

Short Title SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT  
Filed on 21 DEC 1998RECEIVED BY: K

- a) COMMITTEE(s) which reported out the bill(s)/resolution(s)/other matters:

Youth, Women & Family Relations (primary)  
Social Justice, Welfare & Rural Development; Finance (secondary)

- b) BILL(s) and/or RESOLUTION(s)/OTHER MATTER(s) reported out and taken into consideration:

Bill/Resolution/others	Referred to the Cttee(s) on:	Author(s)
1. <u>SEN 93</u>	_____	_____
2. <u>SEN 216</u>	_____	_____
3. <u>SEN 998</u>	_____	_____

-Other bill(s)/resolution(s)/other matters of similar subject matter not included in this report:

\_\_\_\_\_ Reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- c) ACTION TAKEN by the Committee(s):

Primary CommitteeSecondary Committee

(If this is not a joint report)

☒ \_\_\_\_\_ Recommending Approval \_\_\_\_\_ ☐  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_ with amendments \_\_\_\_\_ ☐  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_ without amendments \_\_\_\_\_ ☐  
☒ \_\_\_\_\_ in substitution of \_\_\_\_\_ ☐  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_ in consolidation with \_\_\_\_\_ ☐  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_ Laid on the Table/Archived \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

☐ Pending in the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

- d) COMMITTEE MEETINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS/TWG/OTHERS CONDUCTED:

Date: August 18, 1998 Venue: Rec'd Room Date: September 18, 1998 Venue: Joint Room  
(PUBLIC HEARING) (TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING)

- e) Does this Bill/Resolution contain any REVENUE or APPROPRIATION Provision?
- ☒

If Yes, has it been referred to the Finance or Ways and Means Committee and what were its recommendations? Finance

- f) RELATED/COUNTERPART MEASURE from the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Bill/Resolution No.(s)	Status in the House	Status in the Senate
<u>N/A. (as of 12/19/98)</u>	_____	_____

- g) MEMBER(s) without signature in the report; and reason(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- h) Additional remarks:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: MA. LOURDES A. JUAN-ALZATE  
Legislative Committee Secretary  
Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

93 FEB 21 P4:48

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: G

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15

Submitted by the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance on 21 FEB 1998.

Re : Senate Bill No. 1404 (Prepared by the Committees)

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 93, 216 and 998.

Sponsors : Senators Aquino-Oreta, Coseteng, Osmeña (J.), Flavier and Osmeña III.

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MR. PRESIDENT :

The Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance to which were referred Senate Bill No. 93, introduced by Senators Flavier and Coseteng, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO  
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES"**

Senate Bill No. 216, introduced by Senators Osmeña III and Coseteng, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO  
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES"**

Senate Bill No. 998, introduced by Senator Aquino-Oreta, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO  
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached S. No. 1404, prepared by the Committees, entitled :

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO  
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES"**


be approved in substitution of S. Nos. 93, 216 and 998 with Senators Flavier, Osmeña III, Aquino-Oreta, Coseteng and Osmeña (J.) as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted :

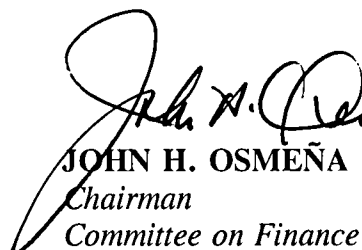


**TERESA AQUINO-ORETA**  
Chairperson

*Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations  
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance*




**ANNA DOMINIQUE M.L. COSETENG**  
Chairperson  
*Committee on Social Justice, Welfare  
and Rural Development  
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations*




**JOHN H. OSMEÑA**  
Chairman  
*Committee on Finance*

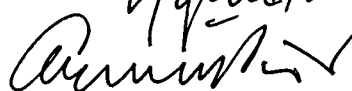
Vice - Chairpersons :



**GREGORIO B. HONASAN**  
*Committee on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations  
Committee on Finance*



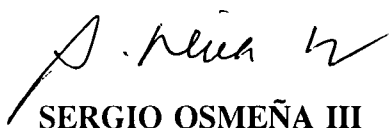
**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**  
*Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and  
Rural Development  
Committee on Finance*

*with questions/amendments*  


**AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Youth, Women  
and Family Relations



**RODOLFO G. BIAZON**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development

*S. Pimentel Jr.*  


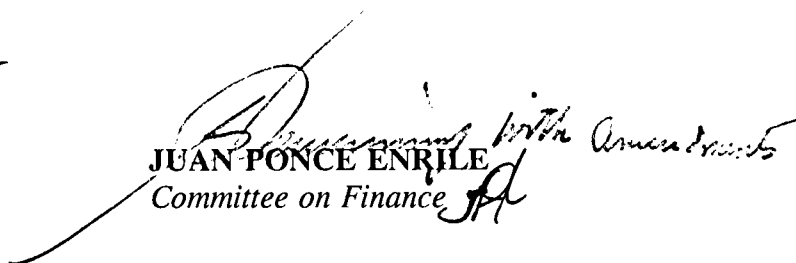
**SERGIO OSMEÑA III**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development



**ROBERT S. JAWORSKI**  
Committee on Finance

*Raul Roco with amendments*  


**RAUL S. ROCO**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Youth, Women  
and Family Relations

*Disagreeing with Amendments*  


**JUAN PONCE ENRILE**  
Committee on Finance

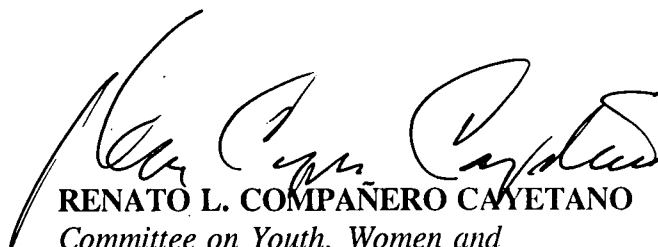


**RAMON B. MACSAYSAY JR.**  
Committee on Finance


Members:




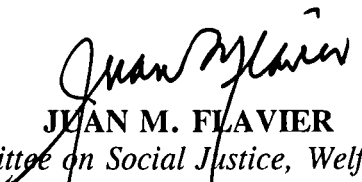
**LOREN B. LEGARDA-LEVISTE**  
Committee on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations  
Committee on Finance




**RENATO L. COMPAÑERO CAYETANO**  
Committee on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations  
Committee on Finance

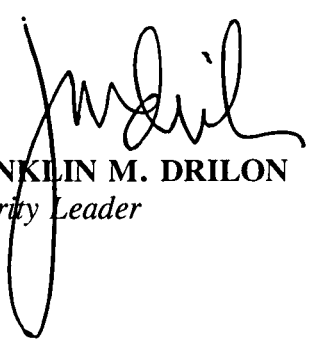
  
**ROBERT Z. BARBERS**  
*Committee on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations  
Committee on Finance*

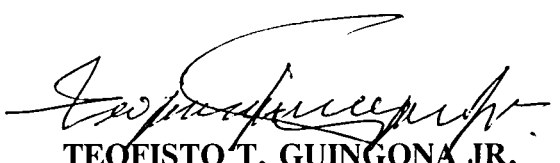
  
**RAMON B. REVILLA**  
*Committee on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations  
Committee on Finance*

  
**JUAN M. FLAVIER**  
*Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and  
Rural Development  
Committee on Finance*

Ex - Officio Members :

  
**BLAS F. OPLE**  
*President Pro-Tempore*

  
**FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
*Majority Leader*

  
**TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA JR.**  
*Minority Leader*

**Hon. MARCELO B. FERNAN**  
*President  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City*

ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'93 SEP 21 P4:48

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: G

S. NO. 1404

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 93, 216 and 998)

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Prepared by the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations;  
Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance with  
Senators Flavier, Coseteng, Osmeña III, Aquino-Oreta and Osmeña (J.) as authors  
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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR**  
**CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**TITLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Solo Parents Welfare Act".

**SEC. 2. Purpose.** - This Act aims to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other related government and non-government agencies.

**SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - Whenever used in this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

- a) *Family* - shall refer to a one-parent family.
- b) *Solo Parent* - shall refer to any individual who falls under any of the following categories:
  - 1. Rape victim. A woman who gives birth as a result of rape;
  - 2. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse;
  - 3. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood because of incarceration of spouse for more than a year due to criminal conviction;

S. No. \_\_\_\_\_

1           4. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or  
2 mental incapacitation of spouse;

3           5. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or  
4 *de facto* separation from spouse;

5           6. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to annulment of  
6 marriage as decreed by a court or by a church as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody  
7 of the children;

8           7. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of  
9 spouse; and

10          8. Unwed mother/father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child/children  
11 instead of having others care for them or give them up to a welfare institution.

12          9. Spouses of migrant workers left behind with the responsibility of caring for the  
13 children.

14          c) *Children* - refer to those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for  
15 support who are unmarried, unemployed, and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even  
16 over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical  
17 defect/deformity.

18          d) *Parental responsibility* - with respect to their minor children shall refer to the rights  
19 and duties of the parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209 as amended,  
20 otherwise known as the "Family Code of the Philippines".

21          e) *Parental leave* - shall mean leave benefits granted to a solo parent to enable him/her  
22 to perform parental duties and responsibilities where physical presence is required.

23          f) *Flexible Work Schedule* - is the right granted to a solo parent employee to vary  
24 his/her arrival and departure time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the  
25 employer.

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1           **SEC. 4. *Criteria for Support.*** - Any solo parent whose income in the place of  
2           domicile, including those of other household members, falls below the poverty threshold, as set  
3           by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall be eligible for assistance.

4                                   **TITLE II - SOCIAL SERVICES**

5           **SEC. 5. *Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare Services.*** - A  
6           comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their  
7           families will be developed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in  
8           coordination with other agencies and in consultation with NGOs.

9           The DSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies the implementation of the  
10          comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their  
11          families. The package will initially include:

12               a) *Livelihood Development Services.* - This will include trainings on livelihood skills,  
13               basic business management, value orientation and the provision of seed capital or job placement.

14               b) *Counselling Service.* - This may be individual, peer group or family counselling.  
15               This will focus on the resolution of personal relationship and role conflicts.

16               c) *Parent Effectiveness Service.* - This is the provision and expansion of knowledge and  
17               skills of the solo parent on early childhood development, behavior management, health care,  
18               rights and duties of parents and children.

19               d) *Critical Incidence Stress Debriefing.* - This service provides a hotline for women  
20               in crises and for concerned citizens who report on cases of abuse for immediate assistance.

21               e) *Special Projects for Individuals in Need of Protection.* - This project consists of  
22               temporary shelter, medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis management and spiritual  
23               enrichment.

24           **SEC. 6. *Flexible Work Schedule.*** - The employer shall provide for a flexible working  
25           schedule for solo parents: *Provided,* That the same shall not affect individual and company  
26           productivity: *Provided, further,* That any employer may request exemption from the above



S. No. \_\_\_\_\_

requirements from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on certain meritorious grounds.

**SEC. 7. *Work Discrimination.*** - No employer shall discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her status.

**SEC. 8. *Parental Leave.*** - In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of at least ten (10) working days every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered an aggregate service of at least six (6) months for the last twelve (12) months.

**SEC. 9. *Educational Benefits.*** - a) The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) shall provide the following benefits and privileges: (1) Scholarship programs for qualified solo parents and their children; and (2) non-formal education programs appropriate to the needs of solo parents and their children.

b) Solo parents and their children who are not eligible for scholarship shall be entitled to a forty percent (40%) discount on all school fees in any institute of learning.

The DECS shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this program.

**SEC. 10. *Housing Benefits.*** - Solo parents shall be given allocations in housing projects and shall be provided with liberal terms of payment on said government low-cost housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions prioritizing applicants below the poverty line.

**SEC. 11. *Medical Assistance.*** - The Department of Health shall develop and implement a comprehensive health care program for solo parents and their children.

The DOH shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this program.

**SEC. 12. *Additional Powers and Functions of the Bureau of Family and Community Welfare (BFCW), Department of Social Welfare and Development.*** - In addition to its powers and functions as defined in Executive Order No. 123 reorganizing the Ministry of Social

S. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Services and Development, the DSWD shall perform the following additional powers and functions relative to the welfare of solo parents and their family:

a) Coordinate with various government and non-government agencies including Local Government Units, DECS, DOH, National Housing Authority (NHA), Housing and Urban Development and Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and others as maybe needed to implement the services for solo parents and their families herein provided for.

b) Draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this law which will include the criteria for beneficiaries and livelihood components for solo parents and their families.

c) Negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement with concerned agencies and/or create an Oversight Committee for the proper implementation of the provisions of this law.

### **TITLE III - FINAL PROVISIONS**

**SEC. 13. Appropriations.** - Such sum as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the regular appropriation of the DSWD, DECS, DILG and DOH. Thereafter, funds for its continued operation shall be proportionately appropriated from the annual appropriations of the aforementioned agencies.

**SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of the Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 16. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'98 JUN 30 P1:17

S E N A T E

S. No.

93

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Introduced by Senator Flavier  
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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation; and marriage, an inviolable social institution, as the basis of the family. Be that as it may, it should not turn its back on families formed without the benefit of marriage nor those that inevitably break down as a result of death, separation, abandonment, etc. For these broken families exist along with intact ones. They must be equally supported and strengthened; their solidarity reestablished and their development promoted.

Solo parenthood entails caring for orphans and earning a living. For the economically disadvantaged, the problem is aggravated as it signifies less time spent with the family and less resources for food, other goods, and services. With only one breadwinner, less attention is afforded the children, depriving them of the necessary guidance, caring and security that lay the groundwork for a stable future. In extreme economic and social deprivation, juvenile delinquency, child labor or even prostitution may ensue.

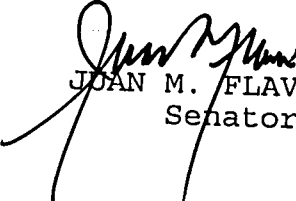
As single parenthood tends to disrupt the integrity of the family, threatening its security and stability, the State, more than ever, must defend the rights of the children. As products of these families, they must be provided appropriate assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development. The right of the broken family to a decent living wage and income must be promoted and upheld.

Data from the National Statistics Office show that as of 1980, some 1,337,895 Filipinos are widowed and 182,244 are separated legally or otherwise. There is, however, no accurate information on the *de facto* separation, therefore it is likely that the figures presented are understated. The real problem can be gleaned when a consideration is made of the number of offsprings of these families.

The proposed Solo Parent Welfare Act seeks government support for the economically disadvantaged solo parents and their children. It recommends supportive measures particularly in the areas of housing, child education, health and other social services, which will ultimately accrue to the benefit of the more vulnerable sector -- the children.

Greater access to relevant support services will afford solo parents better opportunity to provide for the psychosocial and emotional development needs of their children. Moreover, by giving solo parents access to opportunities which allows them to join the mainstream of society, the State in effect assures economic self-reliance while strengthening and ensuring the fundamental integrity of the family. More than being a plea in behalf of solo parents, this is an action agenda that promotes the welfare of the Filipino people.

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

  
JOAN M. FLAVIER  
Senator

11:30 P1:17

S E N A T E

S. No. 93

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Introduced by Senator Flavier  
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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND  
THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 TITLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

2 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the  
3 "Solo Parents Welfare Act".

4 SEC. 2. *Purpose.* - This Act aims to promote the family  
5 as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity  
6 and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it  
7 shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo  
8 parents and their children to be carried out by the  
9 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the  
10 Department of Health (DOH) and other related government and  
11 non-government agencies.

12 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - Whenever used in this  
13 Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

- 14 a) Family - shall refer to a one-parent family.  
15 b) Solo Parent - shall refer to any individual who  
16 falls under any of the following categories:

- 17 1. Rape victim. A woman who gives birth  
18 due to rape, whether of the statutory or non-  
19 consensual type (court determination of rape may  
20 not be a requirement);

1           2.     Parent left solo or alone with  
2     responsibility of parenthood due to death of  
3     spouse;

4           3.     Parent left solo or alone with  
5     responsibility of parenthood because of  
6     incarceration of spouse for more than a year due  
7     to criminal conviction;

8           4.     Parent left solo or alone with  
9     responsibility of parenthood due to physical  
10    and/or mental incapacitation of spouse;

11          5.     Parent left solo or alone with  
12    responsibility of parenthood due to legal  
13    separation as decreed by a court of competent  
14    jurisdiction provided that he/she is not the  
15    guilty spouse;

16          6.     Parent left solo or alone with  
17    responsibility of parenthood due to annulment of  
18    marriage as decreed by a court or by a church,  
19    provided that he/she did not give cause for the  
20    annulment;

21          7.     Parent left solo or alone with  
22    responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of  
23    spouse; and

24          8.     Unwed mother/father who has preferred to  
25    keep and rear her/his child/children instead of  
26    having others care for them or given them up to a  
27    welfare institution.

28          c)     Children - refers to those living with and  
29    dependent upon the solo parent for support who are  
30    unmarried, unemployed, and not more than eighteen (18) years  
31    of age, or even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable  
32    of self-support because of mental and/or physical  
33    defect/deformity.

1           d) Parental responsibility - with respect to their  
2 minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the  
3 parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209  
4 as amended, otherwise known as the "Family Code of the  
5 Philippines".

6           e) Parental leave - shall mean leave benefits granted  
7 to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental  
8 duties and responsibilities where physical presence is  
9 required.

10          f) Flexible Work Schedule - is the right granted to a  
11 solo parent employee to vary his/her arrival and departure  
12 time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the  
13 employer.

14          SEC. 4. *Criteria for Support.* - Any solo parent whose  
15 income in the place of domicile, including those of other  
16 household members, falls below the poverty threshold, as set  
17 by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)  
18 shall be eligible for assistance.

19                   TITLE II - SOCIAL SERVICES

20          SEC. 5. *Livelihood Development Services.* - The  
21 Department of Social Welfare and Development and other  
22 related government and non-government organizations shall  
23 implement a coordinated livelihood skills program for solo  
24 parents.

25          SEC. 6. *Flexible Work Schedule.* - The employer shall  
26 provide for a flexible working schedule for solo parents:  
27 *Provided,* That the same shall not affect individual and  
28 company productivity: *Provided, further,* That any employer  
29 may request exemption from the above requirements from the  
30 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on certain  
31 meritorious grounds.

32          SEC. 7. *Work Discrimination.* - No employer shall  
33 discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect

1 to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her  
2 status.

3 SEC. 8. *Parental Leave.* - In addition to leave  
4 privileges under existing laws, parental leave of at least  
5 ten (10) working days every year shall be granted to any  
6 solo parent employee who has rendered an aggregate service  
7 of at least six (6) months for the last twelve (12) months.

8 SEC. 9. *Family Counselling Services.* - The Department  
9 of Social Welfare and Development shall strengthen and  
10 expand the scope of their financial and professional  
11 counselling services to assist solo parents and their  
12 children in coping with economic and psycho-social problems.

13 SEC. 10. *Educational Benefits.* - a) The Department of  
14 Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) shall provide the  
15 following benefits and privileges: (1) scholarship  
16 programs for qualified solo parents and their children; and  
17 (2) non-formal education programs appropriate to the needs  
18 of solo parents and their children.

19 b) Solo parents and their children who are not  
20 eligible for scholarship shall be entitled to a forty  
21 percent (40%) discount on all school fees in any institute  
22 of learning.

23 The DECS shall promulgate rules and regulations for the  
24 proper implementation of this program.

25 SEC. 11. *Housing Benefits.* - Solo parents shall be  
26 given priority slots in housing projects and shall be  
27 provided with liberal terms of payment on said government  
28 low-cost housing projects.

29 SEC. 12. *Medical Assistance.* - The Department of  
30 Health shall develop and implement a comprehensive health  
31 care program for solo parents and their children.

32 The DOH shall promulgate rules and regulations for the  
33 proper implementation of this program.



1           SEC. 13. *Additional Powers and Functions of the Bureau*  
2           *of Family Planning and Community Welfare (BFPCW), Department*  
3           *of Social Welfare and Development.* - In addition to its  
4           powers and functions as defined in Executive Order No. 123  
5           reorganizing the Ministry of Social Services and  
6           Development, the BFPCW shall perform the following additional  
7           powers and functions relative to the welfare of solo parents  
8           and their family:

9           a) Conduct research necessary to: (1) develop a new  
10          body of knowledge on solo parents; (2) define executive  
11          and legislative measures needed to promote and protect the  
12          interest of solo parents and their children; (3) assess the  
13          effectiveness of programs designed for disadvantaged solo  
14          parents and their children;

15          b) Coordinate the activities of various government  
16          and non-government organizations engaged in promoting and  
17          protecting the interests of solo parents and their children;

18          c) Monitor implementation of the provisions of Title  
19          II of this Act and suggest mechanisms by which such  
20          provisions are effectively and efficiently implemented by  
21          law;

22          d) Perform such other functions as provided by law.

23                           TITLE III - FINAL PROVISIONS

24          SEC. 14. *Appropriation.* - Such sum as may be necessary  
25          for the implementation of the provisions of this Act is  
26          hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in the  
27          National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter,  
28          funds for its continued operation shall be included in the  
29          regular appropriations of the DSWD, DECS AND DOH.

30          SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees,  
31          executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the  
32          provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
33          modified accordingly.

1        SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of  
2        the Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other  
3        provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full  
4        force and effect.

5        SEC. 17. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take  
6        effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication  
7        in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of  
8        general circulation.

          Approved,

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES  
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

SBN-216, entitled:

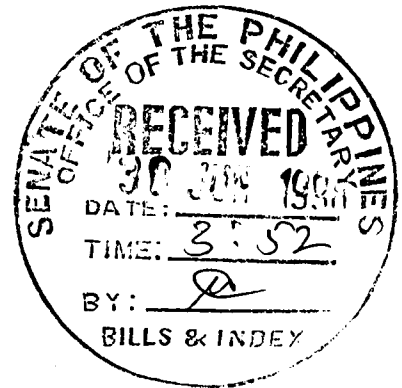
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND  
THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

S T A T U S

[ First Regular Session, 11th Congress ]  
[ 1998 ]

- Jun. 30 - Introduced by Sen. OSMENA III;  
Jul. 30 - Read on First Reading and referred to the Committee(s)  
on YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS; SOCIAL JUSTICE,  
WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT; and FINANCE;  
Aug. 11 - Senator Coseteng was made as co-author as manifested  
by Senator Osmena III;  
18 - Conducted committee meetings/hearings;  
Dec. 21 - Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committee(s) on  
Youth, Women and Family Relations; Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance per  
Committee Report No. 15, recommending that it be  
substituted by SBN-1404;  
22 - Submitted said Report to the Senate;  
- SUBSTITUTED BY SBN-1404.

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



S E N A T E

S. No 216

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Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippine setting, the importance of the family as an institution is well recognized. The 1987 Philippine Constitution reinforces this belief as provided in the following sections of Article XV entitled "THE FAMILY":

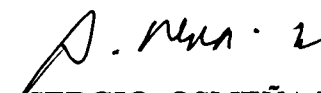
"Section 1. The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development.

Sec. 2. Marriage, as an inviolable social institution, is the foundation of the family and shall be protected by the State."

The State seeks to protect the integrity, security and stability of the institutions of marriage and the family. As seen from the present laws, there is a premium given to functional families. These families usually enjoy more benefits as compared to dysfunctional families. However, ours is an environment wherein nothing is perfect. It comes as no surprise to anyone that there are a lot of failed marriages and broken homes. Most of these lead to dysfunctional families. For the economically disadvantaged, the problem is aggravated as it signifies less time spent with the family and less resources for food, other goods and services. In extreme economic and social deprivation, juvenile delinquency, child labor or even prostitution results.

This proposed Solo Parent Welfare Act seeks government support for the economically disadvantaged solo parents and their children. Among others, it recommends supportive measures particularly in the areas of housing, child education, health and other social services.

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

  
SERGIO OSMEÑA III  
Senator



S E N A T E  
S. No 216

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Introduced by Senator Osmeña III  
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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND  
THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

TITLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

1           SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Solo Parents Welfare Act”.

2           SEC. 2. *Purpose.* – This Act aims to promote the family as the foundation of the  
3 nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it  
4 shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children to  
5 be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the  
6 Department of Health (DOH) and other related government and non-government  
7 agencies.

8           SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – Whenever used in this Act, the following terms  
9 shall mean as follows:

- 10           a)     Family-shall refer to any individual family.
- 11           b)     Solo Parent – shall refer to any individual who falls under any of the  
12 following categories:
- 13                 1.     Rape victim. A woman who gives birth due to rape, whether of the  
14 statutory or non-consensual type (court determination of rape may not be a  
15 requirement);

2. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse;
3. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood because of incarceration of spouse for more than a year due to criminal conviction;
4. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacitation of spouse;
5. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation as decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction provided that he/she is not the guilty spouse;
6. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a church, provided that he/she did not give cause for the annulment;
7. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of spouse; and
8. Unwed mother / father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child/children instead of having others care for them or given them up to a welfare institution.

c) Children – refers to those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed, and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical defect/deformity.

d) Parental responsibility – with respect to their minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209 as amended, otherwise known as the “Family Code of the Philippines”.

e) Parental leave – shall mean leave benefits granted to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental duties and responsibilities where physical presence is required.

f) **Flexible Work Schedule** – is the right granted to a solo parent employee to vary his/her arrival and departure time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the employer.

SEC. 4. *Criteria for Support.* – Any solo parent whose income in the place of domicile, including those of other household members, falls below the poverty threshold, as set by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall be eligible for assistance.

## TITLE II – SOCIAL SERVICES

SEC. 5. Livelihood Development Services. – The Department of Social Welfare and Development and other related government and non-government organizations shall implement a coordinated livelihood skills program for solo parents.

SEC. 6. *Flexible Work Schedule.* – The employer shall provide for a flexible working schedule for solo parents: Provided, That the same shall not affect individual and company productivity: Provided, further, That any employer may request exemption from the above requirements from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on certain meritorious grounds.

SEC. 7. *Work Discrimination.* – No employer shall discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her status.

SEC. 8. *Parental Leave.* – In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of at least ten (10) working days every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered an aggregate service of at least six (6) months for the last twelve (12) months.

SEC. 9. *Family Counselling Services.* – The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall strengthen and expand the scope of their financial and professional counselling services to assist solo parents and their children in coping with economic and psycho-social problems.

SEC. 10. *Educational Benefits.* – a) The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) shall provide the following benefits and privileges: (1) scholarship

1 programs for qualified solo parents and their children; and (2) non-formal education  
2 programs appropriate to the needs of solo parents and their children.

3 b) Solo parents and their children who are not eligible for scholarship shall  
4 be entitled to a forty percent (40%) discount on all school fees in any institute of learning.

5 The DECS shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation  
6 of this program.

7 SEC. 11. *Housing Benefits.* – Solo parents shall be given priority slots in housing  
8 projects and shall be provided with liberal terms of payment on said government low-cost  
9 housing projects.

10 SEC. 12. *Medical Assistance.* – The Department of Health shall develop and  
11 implement a comprehensive health care program for solo parents and their children.

12 The DOH shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of  
13 this program.

14 SEC. 13. *Additional Powers and Functions of the Bureau of Family Planning*  
15 *and Community Welfare (BFPCW), Department of Social Welfare and Development.* – In  
16 addition to its powers and functions as defined in Executive Order No. 123 reorganizing  
17 the Ministry of Social Services and Development, the BFPCW shall perform the  
18 following additional powers and functions relative to the welfare of solo parents and their  
19 family:

20 a) Conduct research necessary to: (1) develop a new body of knowledge on  
21 solo parents; (2) define executive and legislative measures needed to promote and protect  
22 the interest of solo parents and their children; (3) assess the effectiveness of programs  
23 designed for disadvantaged solo parents and their children;

24 b) Coordinate the activities of various government and non-government  
25 organizations engaged in promoting and protecting the interests of solo parents and their  
26 children;

27 c) Monitor implementation of the provisions of Title II of this Act and  
28 suggest mechanisms by which such provisions are effectively and efficiently  
29 implemented by law;



1           d)     Perform such other functions as provided by law.

2                               **TITLE III – FINAL PROVISIONS**

3           SEC. 14. *Appropriation.* – Such sum as may be necessary for the  
4     implementation of the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated out  
5     of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, funds for its  
6     continued operation shall be included in the regular appropriations of the DSWD, DECS  
7     AND DOH.

8           SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof  
9     inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
10    accordingly.

11          SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of the Act is held invalid or  
12    unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force  
13    and effect.

14          SEC. 17. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect (15) days following its  
15    complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
16    circulation.

          Approved,

'98 AUG -4 A9:48

Eleventh Congress of the )  
Republic of the Philippines )  
First Regular Session )

RECEIVED BY: 6

SENATE

S.B. No. 998

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Introduced by Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta  
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation; and marriage, an inviolable social institution, as the basis of the family. Be that as it may, it should not turn its back on families formed without the benefit of marriage nor those that inevitably break down as a result of death, separation, abandonment, etc. For these broken families exist along with intact ones. They must be equally supported and strengthened; their solidarity reestablished and their development promoted.

Solo Parenthood entails caring for orphans and earning a living. For the economically disadvantaged, the problem is aggravated as it signifies less time spent with the family and less resources for food, other goods, and services. With only one breadwinner, less attention is afforded the children, depriving them of the necessary guidance, caring and security that lay the groundwork for a stable future. In extreme economic and social deprivation, juvenile delinquency, child labor or even prostitution may ensue.

As single parenthood tends to disrupt the integrity of the family, threatening its security and stability, the State, more than ever, must defend the rights of the children. As products of these families, they must be provided appropriate assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development. The right of the broken family to a decent living wage and income must be promoted and upheld.

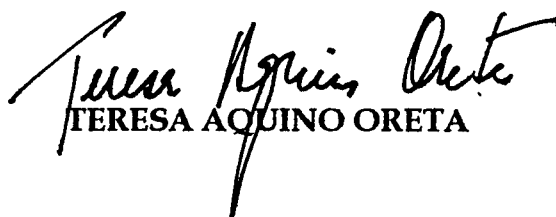
Data from the National Statistics Office show that as of 1980, some 1,339,895 Filipinos are widowed and 182,244 are separated legally or otherwise.

There is, however, no accurate information on the de facto separation, therefore it is likely that the figures presented are understated. The real problem can be gleaned when a consideration is made of the number of offsprings of these families.

The proposed Solo Parent Welfare Act seeks government support for the economically disadvantaged solo parents and their children. I recommend supportive measures particularly in the areas of housing, child education, health and other social services, which will ultimately accrue to the benefit of the more vulnerable sector -- the children.

Greater access to relevant support services will afford solo parents better opportunity to provide for the psychosocial and emotional development needs of their children. Moreover, by giving solo parents access to opportunities which allows them to join the mainstream of society, the State in effect assures economic self-reliance while strengthening and ensuring the fundamental integrity of the family. More than being a plea in behalf of solo parents, this is an action agenda that promotes the welfare of the Filipino people.

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

  
TERESA AQUINO ORETA

'98 AUG -4 A9:49

Eleventh Congress of the )  
Republic of the Philippines )  
First Regular Session )

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE  
**998**

S.B. No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta  
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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND  
THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

TITLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Solo Parents  
Welfare Act".

SECTION 2. *Purpose.* - This Act aims to promote the family as the  
foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total  
development. Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of  
services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the Department of  
Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH) and  
other related government and non-government agencies.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms* - Whenever used in this Act, the  
following terms shall mean as follows :

- a) **Family** - shall refer to a one-parent family.
- b) **Solo Parent** - shall refer to any individual who falls under any of the  
following categories :

- 1. **Rape victim.** A woman who gives birth as a result of rape, in  
which case conviction of the rapist is not required.;

2. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse;
  3. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood because of incarceration of spouse for more than a year due to criminal conviction;
  4. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacitation of spouse;
  5. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or *de facto* separation from spouse;
  6. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a church as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;
  7. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of spouse;
  8. Unwed mother/father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child/children instead of having others care for them or given them up to a welfare institution; and
  9. Spouses of migrant workers left behind with the responsibility of caring for the children.
- c) **Children** - refers to those living with a dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed, and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even over 18 years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical defect/deformity.
- d) **Parental responsibility** - with respect to their minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the parents as defined in Article 220 of executive Order No. 209 as amended, otherwise known as the "Family Code of the Philippines".
- e) **Parental leave** - shall mean leave benefits granted to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental duties and responsibilities where physical presence is required.
- f) **Flexible Work Schedule** - is the right granted to a solo parent employee to vary his/her arrival and departure time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the employer.

**SECTION 4. *Criteria for Support*** - Any solo parent whose income in the place of domicile, including those of other household members falls below the poverty threshold, as set by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall be eligible for assistance.

## **TITLE II - SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SECTION 5. *Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare Services***. - A comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families will be developed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The DSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies the implementation of the comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families. The package will initially include :

- a) **Livelihood Development Service.** - This will include trainings on livelihood skills, basic business management, value orientation and the provision of seed capital or job placement.
- b) **Counselling Service.** - This may be individual, peer group or family counselling. This will focus on the resolution of personal relationship and role conflicts.
- c) **Parent Effectiveness Service.** - This is the provision and expansion of knowledge and skills of the solo parent on early childhood development, behavior management, health care, rights and duties of parents and children.
- d) **Women's Help Desk.** - This service provides a hotline for women in crises and for concerned citizens who report on cases of abuse for immediate assistance.
- e) **Special Project for Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances.** - This project consist of temporary shelter, medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis management and spiritual enrichment.

**SECTION 6. *Flexible Work Schedule***. - The employer shall provide for a flexible working schedule for solo parents : *Provided*, That the same shall not affect individual and company productivity: *Provided, further*, That any employer may request exemption from the above requirements from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on certain meritorious grounds.

**SECTION 7. *Work Discrimination.*** - No employer shall discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her status.

**SECTION 8. *Parental Leave.*** - In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of at least ten (10) working days every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered an aggregate service of at least six (6) months for the last twelve (12) months.

**SECTION 9. *Educational Benefits.*** - a) The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) shall provide the following benefits and privileges: (1) Scholarship programs for qualified solo parents and their children; and (2) non-formal education programs appropriate to the needs of solo parents and their children.

b) Solo parents and their children who are not eligible for scholarship shall be entitled to a forty percent (40%) discount on all school fees in any institute of learning.

The DECS shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this program.

**SECTION 10. *Housing Benefits.*** - Solo parents shall be given priority slots in housing projects and shall be provided with liberal terms of payment on said government low-cost housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions prioritizing applicants below the poverty line.

**SECTION 11. *Medical Assistance.*** - The Department of Health shall develop and implement a comprehensive health care program for solo parents and their children.

The DOH shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this program.

**SECTION 12.** *Additional Powers and Functions of the Bureau of Family Planning and Community Welfare (BFPCW), Department of Social Welfare and Development.* - In addition to its powers and functions as defined in Executive Order No. 123 reorganizing the Ministry of Social Services and Development, the DSWD shall perform the following additional powers and functions relative to the welfare of solo parents and their family :

- a) Coordinate with various government and non-government agencies including Local Government Units, DECS, DOH, National Housing Authority (NHA), Housing and Urban Development and Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and others as may be needed to implement the services for solo parents and their families herein provided for.
- b) Draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this law which will include the criteria for beneficiaries and livelihood component for solo parents and their families.
- c) Negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement with concerned agencies and/or create an Oversight Committee for the proper implementation of the provisions of this law.

### **TITLE III - FINAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 13.** *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the regular appropriations of the DSWD, DECS and DOH. Thereafter, funds for its continued operation shall be proportionately appropriated from the annual appropriations of the aforementioned agencies

**SECTION 14.** *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 15.** *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of the Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.



**SECTION 16. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**

S E N A T E

S. No. 1404

(In substitution of S. Nos. 93, 216 and 998)

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Prepared jointly by the Committees on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural  
Development; and Finance with Senators Flavier,  
Osmeña III, Aquino-Oreta, Coseteng and Osmeña(J.), as  
authors  
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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND  
THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

TITLE I- GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the  
"Solo Parents Welfare Act."

SEC. 2. *Purpose.* - This Act aims to promote the family  
as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity  
and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it  
shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo  
parents and their children to be carried out by the  
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the  
Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education, Culture  
and Sports (DECS), the Department of the Interior and Local  
Government (DILG), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED),  
THE TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE  
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) and other related government and non-  
government agencies.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - Whenever used in this  
Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

[ (a) Family - shall refer to a one-parent family. ]

(A) [(b)] Solo Parent - shall refer to any individual who  
falls under any of the following categories:

19           1. SURVIVOR OF RAPE AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY  
19a           UNDER ARTICLES 337, 338, 342 AND 343 [Rape victim.]  
19b           A woman who gives birth as a result of  
20           rape AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY UNDER  
20a           ARTICLES 337, 338, 342 AND 343 OF THE REVISED PENAL  
20b           CODE, EVEN WITHOUT A FINAL CONVICTION OF THE  
20c           OFFENDER;

- 1           2. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
2           parenthood due to death of spouse;
  - 3           3. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
4           parenthood because of incarceration of spouse for  
5           AT LEAST ONE (1) [more than a] year due to criminal  
5a          conviction OR INDICTMENT;
  - 6           4. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
7           parenthood due to physical and/or mental  
8           incapacitation of spouse AS CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL  
8a          PRACTITIONER;
  - 9           5. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
10          parenthood due to legal separation or *de facto*  
11          separation from spouse FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR;
  - 12          6. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
13          parenthood due to annulment of marriage as decreed  
14          by a court or by a church as long as he/she is  
15          entrusted with the custody of the children;
  - 16          7. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
17          parenthood due to abandonment of spouse FOR AT  
17a         LEAST ONE (1) YEAR; [and]
  - 18          8. UNMARRIED [Unwed] mother/father who has preferred  
18a         to keep and  
19          rear her/his child/children instead of having  
20          others care for them or give them up to a welfare  
21          institution; [and]
  - 22          9. Spouses of migrant workers left behind with the  
23          responsibility of caring for the children; AND
  - 23a         10. ADOPTIVE PARENT OR OTHER CARE-GIVERS WHO PROVIDE  
23b         PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT TO A CHILD OR CHILDREN.
- 24         (B) [(c)] Children - refer to those living with and dependent  
25         upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried,  
26         unemployed, and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or

27 even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-  
28 support because of mental and/or physical defect/deformity.  
29 (C) [(d)] Parental Responsibility - with respect to their  
30 minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the  
31 parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209

1 as amended, otherwise known as the "Family Code of the  
2 Philippines".

3 (D) [(e)] Parental Leave - shall mean leave benefits granted  
4 to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental  
5 duties and responsibilities where physical presence is  
6 required.

7 (E) [(f)] Flexible Work Schedule - is the right granted to a  
8 solo parent employee to vary his/her arrival and departure  
9 time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the  
10 employer.

11 SEC. 4. *Criteria for Support.* - Any solo parent whose  
12 income in the place of domicile, including those of other  
13 household members, falls below the poverty threshold, as set  
14 by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)  
15 shall be eligible for assistance.

16 TITLE II - SOCIAL SERVICES

17 SEC. 5. *Comprehensive Package of Social Development and*  
18 *Welfare Services.* - A comprehensive package of social  
19 development and welfare services for solo parents and their  
20 families will be developed by the Department of Social  
21 Welfare and Development (DSWD), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
21a (DOH), THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS  
21b (DECS), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), THE  
21c TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE  
21d DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE NATIONAL  
21e HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
21f AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) in coordination with LOCAL  
21g GOVERNMENT UNITS AND A KNOWN NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION  
21h WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD ON PROVIDING SERVICES FOR SOLO  
21i PARENTS. [ other  
22 agencies and in consultation with NGOs ]

23           The DSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies the  
24           implementation of the comprehensive package of social  
25           development and welfare services for solo parents and their  
26           families. The package will initially include:

27           (a) Livelihood Development Services - This will include  
28           trainings on livelihood skills, basic business management,  
29           value orientation and the provision of seed capital or job  
30           placement.

31           (b) Counselling Service - This may be individual, peer  
32           group or family counselling. This will focus on the

1 resolution of personal relationship and role conflicts.

2 (c) Parent Effectiveness Service - This is the  
3 provision and expansion of knowledge and skills of the solo  
4 parent on early childhood development, behavior management,  
5 health care, rights and duties of parents and children.

6 (d) Critical Incidence Stress Debriefing - A PREVENTIVE  
6a STRESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DESIGNED TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN  
6b HANDLING CRISES AND CASES OF ABUSE. [ This service  
7 provides a hotline for women in crises and for concerned  
8 citizens who report on cases of abuse for immediate  
9 assistance ]

10 (e) Special Projects for Individual in Need of  
11 Protection - This project consists of temporary shelter,  
11a COUNSELLING, LEGAL ASSISTANCE,  
12 medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis  
13 management and spiritual enrichment.

14 SEC. 6. *Flexible Work Schedule.* - The employer shall  
15 provide for a flexible working schedule for solo parents:  
16 *Provided*, That the same shall not affect individual and  
17 company productivity: *Provided, further*, That any employer  
18 may request exemption from the above requirements from the  
19 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on certain  
20 meritorious grounds.

21 SEC. 7. *Work Discrimination.* - No employer shall  
22 discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect  
23 to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her  
24 status.

25 SEC. 8. *Parental Leave.* - In addition to leave  
26 privileges under existing laws, parental leave of at least  
27 ten (10) working days every year shall be granted to any  
28 solo parent employee who has rendered an aggregate service  
29 of at least six (6) months for the last twelve (12) months.



30            SEC. 9. *Educational Benefits.* - (a) The Department of  
31    Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), THE COMMISSION ON  
31a    HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE TECHNICAL SKILLS AND  
31b    DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) shall provide the

1 following benefits and privileges: (1) Scholarship programs  
2 for qualified solo parents and their children IN  
2a INSTITUTIONS OF BASIC, TERTIARY AND TECHNICAL AND SKILLS  
2b EDUCATION; and (2) non-  
3 formal education programs appropriate to the needs of solo  
4 parents and their children.

5 [ (b) Solo parents and their children who are not  
6 eligible for scholarship shall be entitled to a forty  
7 percent (40%) discount on all school fees in any institute  
8 of learning. ]

9 The DEC's shall promulgate rules and regulations for the  
10 proper implementation of this program.

11 SEC. 10. *Housing Benefits.* - Solo parents shall be  
12 given allocations in housing projects and shall be provided  
13 with liberal terms of payment on said government SOCIALIZED  
13a AND low-cost  
14 housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions  
15 prioritizing applicants below the poverty line.

16 SEC. 11. *Medical Assistance.* - The Department of  
17 Health shall develop and implement a comprehensive health  
18 care program for solo parents and their children.

19 The DOH shall promulgate rules and regulations for the  
20 proper implementation of this program.

20a SEC. 12. *IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.* - AN  
20b INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
20c WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), IN COORDINATION WITH THE  
20d DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
20e CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER  
20f EDUCATION (CHED), THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
20g DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE NATIONAL HOUSING  
20h AUTHORITY (NHA), THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL

20i GOVERNMENT (DILG) SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO FORMULATE THE  
20j IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF THIS ACT IN  
20k CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NON-GOVERNMENT  
20l ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS.

21 [ SEC. 12. *Additional Powers and Functions of the Bureau*  
22 *of Family and Community Welfare (BFCW), Department of Social*  
23 *Welfare and Development.* - In addition to its powers and  
24 functions as defined in Executive Order No. 123 reorganizing  
25 the Ministry of Social Services and Development, the DSWD  
26 shall perform the following additional powers and functions  
27 relative to the welfare of solo parents and their family:]

28 [ (a) Coordinate with various government and non-  
29 government agencies including Local Government Units, DECS,  
30 DOH, National Housing Authority (NHA), Housing and Urban  
31 Development and Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and others as

1 maybe needed to implement the services for solo parents and  
2 their families herein provided for. ]

3 [ (b) Draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of  
4 this law which will include the criteria for beneficiaries  
5 and livelihood components for solo parents and their  
6 families. ]

7 [ (c) Negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement with concerned  
8 agencies and/or create an Oversight Committee for the proper  
9 implementation of the provisions of this law. ]

10 TITLE III - FINAL PROVISIONS

11 SEC. 13. *Appropriations.* - Such sum as may be  
12 necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be  
13 charged against the regular appropriation of the DSWD, DECS,  
14 DILG and DOH. Thereafter, funds for its continued operation  
15 shall be proportionately appropriated from the annual  
16 appropriations of the aforementioned agencies.

17 SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees,  
18 executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the  
19 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
20 modified accordingly.

21 SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of  
22 this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other  
23 provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full  
24 force and effect.

25 SEC. 16. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take  
26 effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication  
27 in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of  
28 general circulation.

Approved,

S E N A T E

S. No. 1404

(In substitution of S. Nos. 93, 216 and 998)

-----  
Prepared jointly by the Committees on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural  
Development; and Finance with Senators Flavier,  
Osmeña III, Aquino-Oreta, Coseteng and Osmeña(J.), as  
authors  
-----

AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND  
THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 TITLE I- GENERAL PROVISIONS

2 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the  
3 "Solo Parents Welfare Act."

4 SEC. 2. *Purpose.* - This Act aims to promote the family  
5 as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity  
6 and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it  
7 shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo  
8 parents and their children to be carried out by the  
9 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the  
10 Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education, Culture  
11 and Sports (DECS), the Department of the Interior and Local  
12 Government (DILG), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED),  
12a THE TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE  
12b NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND  
12c EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) and other related government and non-  
13 government agencies.

14 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - Whenever used in this  
15 Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

16 [ (a) Family - shall refer to a one-parent family. ]

17 (A) [(b)] Solo Parent - shall refer to any individual who  
18 falls under any of the following categories:

19           1. [SURVIVOR OF RAPE AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY  
19a           UNDER ARTICLES 337/ 338/ 342 AND 343] [Rape victim.]  
19b           A woman who gives birth as a result of  
20           rape AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY UNDER  
20a           ARTICLES 337, 338, 342 AND 343 OF THE REVISED PENAL  
20b           CODE, EVEN WITHOUT A FINAL CONVICTION OF THE  
20c           OFFENDER[;] PROVIDED THE MOTHER DECIDES TO KEEP AND  
20d           RAISE THE CHILD;

- 1           2. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
2           parenthood due to death of spouse;
- 3           3. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
4           parenthood WHILE THE SPOUSE IS DETAINED OR IS  
4a          SERVING SENTENCE FOR A CRIMINAL CONVICTION FOR AT  
4b          LEAST ONE (1) YEAR [ because of incarceration of  
4c          spouse for  
5           ~~AT LEAST ONE (1)~~ more than a year due to criminal  
5a          conviction ~~OR INDICTMENT~~];
- 6           4. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
7           parenthood due to physical and/or mental  
8           incapacitation of spouse AS CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL  
8a          PRACTITIONER;
- 9           5. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
10          parenthood due to legal separation or de facto  
11          separation from spouse FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR;
- 12          6. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
13          parenthood due to annulment of marriage as decreed  
14          by a court or by a church as long as he/she is  
15          entrusted with the custody of the children;
- 16          7. Parent left solo or alone with responsibility of  
17          parenthood due to abandonment of spouse FOR AT  
17a         LEAST ONE (1) YEAR; [and]
- 18          8. UNMARRIED [Unwed] mother/father who has preferred  
18a         to keep and  
19          rear her/his child/children instead of having  
20          others care for them or give them up to a welfare  
21          institution; [and]
- 22          9. Spouses of migrant workers left behind with the  
23          responsibility of caring for the children; ~~[AND]~~
- 23a         10. ADOPTIVE PARENT OR OTHER SOLO CARE-GIVER[S] WHO  
23b         PROVIDES

23c PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT TO A CHILD OR CHILDREN.

23d A CHANGE IN THE STATUS OR CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE  
23e PARENT CLAIMING BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT, SUCH THAT  
23f HE/SHE IS NO LONGER LEFT ALONE WITH THE  
23g RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTHOOD, SHALL TERMINATE  
23h HIS/HER ELIGIBILITY FOR THESE BENEFITS; AND

23i 11. ANY FAMILY MEMBER WHO ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF  
23j HEAD OF FAMILY AS A RESULT OF THE DEATH, DESERTION,  
23k DISAPPEARANCE OR PROLONG ABSENCE OF THE PARENTS OR  
23l SOLO PARENT.

24 (B) [(c)] Children - refer to those living with and dependent  
25 upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried,  
26 unemployed, and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or  
27 even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-  
28 support because of mental and/or physical defect/deformity.

29 (C) [(d)] Parental Responsibility - with respect to their  
30 minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the  
31 parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209



1 as amended, otherwise known as the "Family Code of the  
2 Philippines".

3 (D) [(e)] Parental Leave - shall mean leave benefits granted  
4 to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental  
5 duties and responsibilities where physical presence is  
6 required.

7 (E) [(f)] Flexible Work Schedule - is the right granted to a  
8 solo parent employee to vary his/her arrival and departure  
9 time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the  
10 employer.

11 SEC. 4. *Criteria for Support.* - Any solo parent whose  
12 income in the place of domicile, including those of other  
13 household members, falls below the poverty threshold, as set  
14 by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)  
15 shall be eligible for assistance.

16 TITLE II - SOCIAL SERVICES

17 SEC. 5. *Comprehensive Package of Social Development and*  
18 *Welfare Services.* - A comprehensive package of social  
19 development and welfare services for solo parents and their  
20 families will be developed by the Department of Social  
21 Welfare and Development (DSWD), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
21a (DOH), THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS  
21b (DECS), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), THE  
21c TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE  
21d DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE NATIONAL  
21e HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
21f AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) in coordination with LOCAL  
21g GOVERNMENT UNITS AND A KNOWN NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION  
21h WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD ON PROVIDING SERVICES FOR SOLO  
21i PARENTS. [ other  
22 agencies and in consultation with NGOs ]

23           The DSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies the  
24           implementation of the comprehensive package of social  
25           development and welfare services for solo parents and their  
26           families. The package will initially include:

27           (a) Livelihood Development Services - This will include  
28           trainings on livelihood skills, basic business management,  
29           value orientation and the provision of seed capital or job  
30           placement.

31           (b) Counselling Service - This may be individual, peer  
32           group or family counselling. This will focus on the

1 resolution of personal relationship and role conflicts.

2 (c) Parent Effectiveness Service - This is the  
3 provision and expansion of knowledge and skills of the solo  
4 parent on early childhood development, behavior management,  
5 health care, rights and duties of parents and children.

6 (d) Critical Incidence Stress Debriefing - A PREVENTIVE  
6a STRESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DESIGNED TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN  
6b HANDLING CRISES AND CASES OF ABUSE. [ This service  
7 provides a hotline for women in crises and for concerned  
8 citizens who report on cases of abuse for immediate  
9 assistance ]

10 (e) Special Projects for Individual in Need of  
11 Protection - This project consists of temporary shelter,  
11a COUNSELLING, LEGAL ASSISTANCE,  
12 medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis  
13 management and spiritual enrichment.

14 SEC. 6. *Flexible Work Schedule.* - The employer shall  
15 provide for a flexible working schedule for solo parents:  
16 *Provided, That the same shall not affect individual and*  
17 *company productivity: Provided, further, That any employer*  
18 *may request exemption from the above requirements from the*  
19 *Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on certain*  
20 *meritorious grounds.*

21 SEC. 7. *Work Discrimination.* - No employer shall  
22 discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect  
23 to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her  
24 status.

25 SEC. 8. *Parental Leave.* - In addition to leave  
26 privileges under existing laws, parental leave of at MOST  
26a [least]  
27 ten (10) working days every year shall be granted to any  
28 solo parent employee who has rendered an aggregate service  
29 of at least six (6) months for the last twelve (12) months.

30            SEC. 9. *Educational Benefits.* - (a) The Department of  
31    Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), THE COMMISSION ON  
31a    HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE TECHNICAL SKILLS AND  
31b    DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) shall provide the

1 following benefits and privileges: (1) Scholarship programs  
2 for qualified solo parents and their children IN  
2a INSTITUTIONS OF BASIC, TERTIARY AND TECHNICAL AND SKILLS  
2b EDUCATION; and (2) non-  
3 formal education programs appropriate to the needs of solo  
4 parents and their children.

5 [ (b) Solo parents and their children who are not  
6 eligible for scholarship shall be entitled to a forty  
7 percent (40%) discount on all school fees in any institute  
8 of learning. ]

9 The DECS shall promulgate rules and regulations for the  
10 proper implementation of this program.

11 SEC. 10. *Housing Benefits.* - Solo parents shall be  
12 given allocations in housing projects and shall be provided  
13 with liberal terms of payment on said government SOCIALIZED  
13a AND low-cost  
14 housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions  
15 prioritizing applicants below the poverty line.

16 SEC. 11. *Medical Assistance.* - The Department of  
17 Health shall develop and implement a comprehensive health  
18 care program for solo parents and their children.

19 The DOH shall promulgate rules and regulations for the  
20 proper implementation of this program.

20a SEC. 12. *IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.* - AN  
20b INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
20c WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), IN COORDINATION WITH THE  
20d DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
20e CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER  
20f EDUCATION (CHED), THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
20g DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE NATIONAL HOUSING  
20h AUTHORITY (NHA), THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL

20i GOVERNMENT (DILG) SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO FORMULATE THE  
20j IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF THIS ACT IN  
20k CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NON-GOVERNMENT  
20l ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS.

21 [ SEC. 12. *Additional Powers and Functions of the Bureau*  
22 *of Family and Community Welfare (BFCW), Department of Social*  
23 *Welfare and Development.* - In addition to its powers and  
24 functions as defined in Executive Order No. 123 reorganizing  
25 the Ministry of Social Services and Development, the DSWD  
26 shall perform the following additional powers and functions  
27 relative to the welfare of solo parents and their family:]

28 [ (a) Coordinate with various government and non-  
29 government agencies including Local Government Units, DECS,  
30 DOH, National Housing Authority (NHA), Housing and Urban  
31 Development and Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and others as

1 maybe needed to implement the services for solo parents and  
2 their families herein provided for. ]

3 [ (b) Draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of  
4 this law which will include the criteria for beneficiaries  
5 and livelihood components for solo parents and their  
6 families. ]

7 [ (c) Negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement with concerned  
8 agencies and/or create an Oversight Committee for the proper  
9 implementation of the provisions of this law. ]

10 TITLE III - FINAL PROVISIONS

11 SEC. 13. *Appropriations.* - Such sum as may be  
12 necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be  
13 charged against the regular appropriation of the DSWD, DECS,  
14 DILG and DOH. Thereafter, funds for its continued operation  
15 shall be proportionately appropriated from the annual  
16 appropriations of the aforementioned agencies.

17 SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees,  
18 executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the  
19 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
20 modified accordingly.

21 SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of  
22 this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other  
23 provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full  
24 force and effect.

25 SEC. 16. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take  
26 effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication  
27 in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of  
28 general circulation.

Approved,

Congress of the Philippines  
SENATE  
Pasay City

Certification No. 20  
Series of 1999

To : Legislative Bills and Index Service  
From : Legislative Journal Service

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This is to certify that the following amendments to Senate Bill No. 1404 (Committee Report No. 15) were approved in the session of March 16, 1999:

1. On page 1, line 12, after the acronym "DILG," insert the following: THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE);
2. On the same page, delete the entire line 16 and renumber the succeeding provisions accordingly;
3. On the same page, line 19, delete the words "Rape victim" and in lieu thereof, insert the following: SURVIVOR OF RAPE AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY UNDER ARTICLES 337, 338, 342 AND 343;
4. On the same page 1, line 20, after the word "rape," insert the following: AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY UNDER ARTICLES 337, 338, 342 AND 343 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, EVEN WITHOUT A FINAL CONVICTION OF THE OFFENDER;
5. On page 2, line 5, replace the words "more than a" with the phrase AT LEAST ONE (1); and on the same line after the word "conviction," insert the words OR INDICTMENT;
6. On the same page, line 8, after the word "spouse," insert the phrase AS CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER;
7. On the same page, line 11, after the word "spouse," insert the phrase FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR;
8. On the same page, line 17, after the word "spouse," insert the phrase FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR; and on the same line, delete the "and" after the semi-colon;



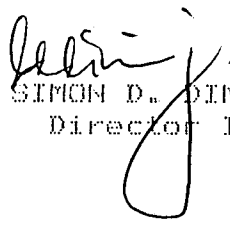
9. On the same page, line 18, replace the word "Unwed" with UNMARRIED;
10. On the same page, line 21, delete the word "and" after the semi-colon;
11. On the same page, line 23, after the word "children," replace the period (.) with a semi-colon (;);
12. On the same page, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

10. ADOPTIVE PARENT OR OTHER CARE-GIVERS WHO PROVIDE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT TO A CHILD OR CHILDREN
13. On page 3, line 21, after the acronym "(DSWD)," insert the following: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG);
14. On the same page and line, after the word "with," insert the words LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS; thereafter, delete the phrase "other agencies and in consultation with NGOs" and in lieu thereof, insert the clause A KNOWN NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD ON PROVIDING SERVICES FOR SOLO PARENTS;
15. On page 4, after the hyphen on line 6, delete the entire sentence ending up to line 9 and in lieu thereof, insert the following: A PREVENTIVE STRESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DESIGNED TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN HANDLING CRISES AND CASES OF ABUSE;
16. On the same page, after the comma at the end of line 11, insert the following: COUNSELLING, LEGAL ASSISTANCE,;
17. On the same page, line 31, after the acronym "(DECS)," insert the following: THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA);
18. On page 5, line 2, after the word "children," insert the phrase IN INSTITUTIONS OF BASIC, TERTIARY AND TECHNICAL AND SKILLS EDUCATION;
19. On the same page, line 13, insert the words SOCIALIZED AND after the word "government"; and

20. On pages 5 and 6, delete the entire Section 12 and in lieu thereof, insert the following paragraph:

SECTION 12. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. --- AN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO FORMULATE THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF THIS ACT IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS.; and

21. On page 5, delete lines 5 to 8.

  
DODI SIMON D. DIMALIBOT JR.  
Director I

Congress of the Philippines  
SENATE  
Pasay City

Certification No. 27  
Series of 1999

To : Legislative Bills and Index Service  
From : Legislative Journal Service

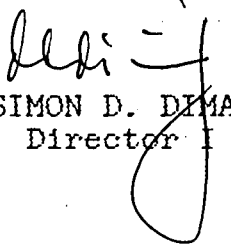
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This is to certify that the following amendments to Senate Bill No. 1404 (Committee Report No. 15) were approved in the session of April 28, 1999:

1. On page 1A, delete lines 19 and 19A, and on line 20C, after the word "OFFENDER," change the semi-colon (;) to a comma (,) and insert the phrase PROVIDED THE MOTHER DECIDES TO KEEP AND RAISE THE CHILD;
2. On page 2, lines 4 to 5A, delete the phrase "because of incarceration of spouse for AT LEAST ONE (1) year due to criminal conviction OR INDICTMENT" and in lieu thereof, substitute the phrase WHILE THE SPOUSE IS DETAINED OR IS SERVING SENTENCE FOR A CRIMINAL CONVICTION FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR;
3. On the same page, after the word "CHILDREN" on line 23b, insert a paragraph to read as follows:

A CHANGE IN THE STATUS OR CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE PARENT CLAIMING BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT, SUCH THAT HE/SHE IS NO LONGER LEFT ALONE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTHOOD, SHALL TERMINATE HIS/HER ELIGIBILITY FOR THESE BENEFITS.;
4. On page 4, line 26, delete the word "least" and in lieu thereof, substitute the word MOST;
5. On page 2, line 23A, between the words "OTHER" and "CARE-GIVERS," insert the word SOLO; delete the letter "S" in the word "CARE-GIVERS" and change "PROVIDE" to PROVIDES; and
6. On the same page, before line 24, insert a new subparagraph 11, to read as follows:

11. ANY FAMILY MEMBER WHO ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEAD OF FAMILY AS A RESULT OF THE DEATH, DESERTION, DISAPPEARANCE OR PROLONGED ABSENCE OF THE PARENTS OR SOLO PARENT.

  
DODI SIMON D. DIMALIBOT JR.  
Director

Republic of the Philippines  
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Eleventh Congress  
Third Regular Session

00 AUG 30 AM 11:57

RECEIVED BY: 

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1404,  
entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS  
AND THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

and House Bill No. 10615, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO  
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

after having met and discussed the subject matter in full and free conference, has agreed, and  
does hereby recommend to their respective Houses that Senate Bill No. 1404, in  
consolidation with House Bill No. 10615, be approved in accordance with the attached copy  
of the bill as reconciled and approved by the conferees, entitled:

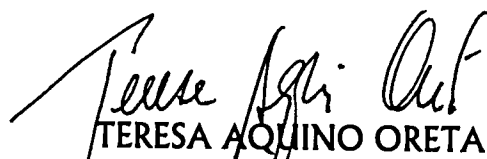
**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO  
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

Approved,

CONFEREES ON THE PART OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:


  
GENARO M. ALVAREZ JR.  
Chairman, House Panel

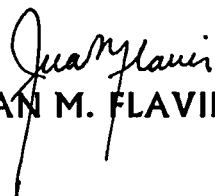
CONFEREES ON THE PART OF THE  
SENATE:

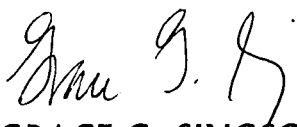
  
TERESA AQUINO ORETA  
Chairperson, Senate Panel

  
RANJIT R. SHAHANI

RAUL S. ROCO

  
PATRICIA M. SARENAS

  
JUAN M. FLAVIER

  
GRACE G. SINGSON

  
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BELLAFLO ANGARA-CASTILLO

  
ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS

  
MA. ELENA T. PALMA GIL

ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES AUG 30 AM 11:57  
Third Regular Session

RECEIVED BY: AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND  
THEIR CHILDREN , APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000."

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and other related government and nongovernment agencies.

**SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - Whenever used in this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

(a) "Solo Parent"-any individual who falls under any of the following categories:

1) A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against chastity even without a final conviction of the offender:  
*Provided, That the mother keeps and raises the child;*

2) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse;

3) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal conviction for at least one (1) year;

4) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner;

5) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or *de facto* separation from spouse for at least one (1) year, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

6) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a church as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

7) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of spouse for at least one (1) year;

8) Unmarried mother/father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child/children instead of having others care for them or give them up to a welfare institution;

9) Any other person who solely provides parental care and support to a child or children;

10) Any family member who assumes the responsibility of head of family as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance or prolonged absence of the parents or solo parent.

A change in the status or circumstance of the parent claiming benefits under this Act, such that he/she is no longer left alone with the responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility for these benefits.

(b) "Children" - refer to those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical defect/disability.

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(c) "Parental responsibility" - with respect to their minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209 as amended, otherwise known as the "Family Code of the Philippines."

(d) "Parental leave" - shall mean leave benefits granted to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental duties and responsibilities where physical presence is required.

(e) "Flexible work schedule" - is the right granted to a solo parent employee to vary his/her arrival and departure time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the employer.

**SEC. 4. Criteria for Support.** - Any solo parent whose income in the place of domicile falls below the poverty threshold as set by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and subject to the assessment of the DSWD worker in the area shall be eligible for assistance: *Provided, however,* That any solo parent whose income is above the poverty threshold shall enjoy the benefits mentioned in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Act.

**SEC. 5. Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare Services.** - A comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families will be developed by the DSWD, DOH, DECS, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA and DILG, in coordination with local government units and a nongovernmental organization with proven track record in providing services for solo parents.

The DSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies the implementation of the comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families. The package will initially include:

(a) Livelihood development services which include trainings on livelihood skills, basic business management, value orientation and the provision of seed capital or job placement.

(b) Counseling services which include individual, peer group or family counseling. This will focus on the resolution of personal relationship and role conflicts.

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(c) Parent effectiveness services which include the provision and expansion of knowledge and skills of the solo parent on early childhood development, behavior management, health care, rights and duties of parents and children.

(d) Critical incidence stress debriefing which include preventive stress management strategy designed to assist solo parents in coping with crisis situations and cases of abuse.

(e) Special projects for individuals in need of protection which include temporary shelter, counseling, legal assistance, medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis management and spiritual enrichment.

**SEC. 6. Flexible Work Schedule.** - The employer shall provide for a flexible working schedule for solo parents: *Provided*, That the same shall not affect individual and company productivity: *Provided, further*, That any employer may request exemption from the above requirements from the DOLE on certain meritorious grounds.

**SEC. 7. Work Discrimination.** - No employer shall discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her status.

**SEC. 8. Parental Leave.** - In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered service of at least one (1) year.

**SEC. 9. Educational Benefits.** - The DECS, CHED and TESDA shall provide the following benefits and privileges:

(1) Scholarship programs for qualified solo parents and their children in institutions of basic, tertiary and technical/skills education; and

(2) Non-formal education programs appropriate for solo parents and their children.

The DECS, CHED and TESDA shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this program.

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SEC. 10. *Housing Benefits.* - Solo parents shall be given allocation in housing projects and shall be provided with liberal terms of payment on said government low-cost housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions prioritizing applicants below the poverty line as declared by the NEDA.

SEC. 11. *Medical Assistance.* - The DOH shall develop a comprehensive health care program for solo parents and their children. The program shall be implemented by the DOH through their retained hospitals and medical centers and the local government units (LGUs) through their provincial/district/city/municipal hospitals and rural health units (RHUs).

SEC. 12. *Additional Powers and Functions of DSWD.* - The DSWD shall perform the following additional powers and functions relative to the welfare of solo parents and their families:

(a) Conduct research necessary to: (1) develop a new body of knowledge on solo parents; (2) define executive and legislative measures needed to promote and protect the interest of solo parents and their children; and (3) assess the effectiveness of programs designed for disadvantaged solo parents and their children;

(b) Coordinate the activities of various governmental and nongovernmental organizations engaged in promoting and protecting the interests of solo parents and their children; and

(c) Monitor the implementation of the provisions of this Act and suggest mechanisms by which such provisions are effectively implemented.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - An inter-agency committee headed by the DSWD, in coordination with the DOH, the DECS, the CHED, the TESDA, the NHA, and the DILG is hereby established which shall formulate, within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations in consultation with the local government units, non-government organizations and people's organizations.

SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of concerned government agencies in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



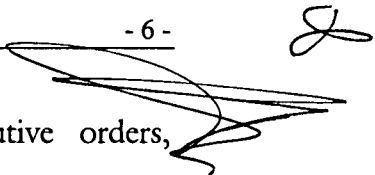
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ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Third Regular Session*

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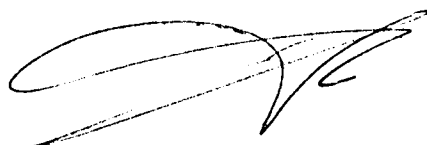
RECEIVED BY: 

**JOINT EXPLANATION OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE  
DISAGREEING PROVISIONS OF SENATE BILL NO. 1404  
AND HOUSE BILL NO. 10615**

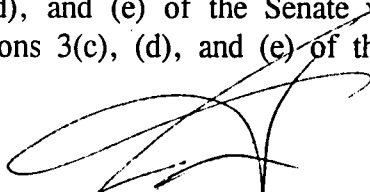
The Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1404 and House Bill No. 10615, after having met and fully discussed the subject matter in a conference on August 15, 2000, hereby report to their respective Houses the following:

1. Initially, the conferees agreed to adopt the Senate version as the working draft. Since the provisions were identical, if not substantially the same, both Chambers compromised to adopt either the Senate or the House version. However, some provisions were then culled from one or the other for inclusion in the selected version and some were deleted from the bill *in toto*.
2. "TITLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS" was deleted.
3. On Section 1 (*Title*), the title of the House version was adopted to be Section 1 of the reconciled version.
4. On Section 2, the Senate version was adopted to be Section 2 of the reconciled version modifying the subtitle from "*Purpose*" to "**DECLARATION OF POLICY**" and changing the introductory phrase from "This Act aims" to "**IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE**".
5. On Section 3 (*Definition of Terms*), the Senate version was adopted as Section 3 of the reconciled version with modifications in certain subsections, to wit:
  - 5.a. Section 3(a) (*Solo Parent*) of the Senate version was adopted as Section 3(a) of the reconciled version.
  - 5.b. Section 3(a), item 1) of the Senate version was adopted with some modifications to read as follows:

**"1) A WOMAN WHO GIVES BIRTH AS A RESULT OF RAPE AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY EVEN WITHOUT A FINAL CONVICTION OF THE OFFENDER: PROVIDED, THAT THE MOTHER KEEPS AND RAISES THE CHILD;"**
  - 5.c. Section 3(a), item 2) of the Senate version was adopted.
  - 5.d. Section 3(a), item 3) of the Senate version was adopted.



- 5.e. Section 3(a), item 4) of the Senate version was adopted with the modifications that the word "incapacitation" was changed to "INCAPACITY"; and the word "PUBLIC" was inserted between the phrase "certified by a" and "medical practitioner".
- 5.f. Section 3(a), item 5) of the Senate version was adopted with modification so that the phrase "**, AS LONG AS HE/SHE IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN**" was inserted after the phrase "one (1) year".
- 5.g. Section 3(a), item 6) of the Senate version was adopted.
- 5.h. Section 3(a), item 7) of the Senate version was adopted.
- 5.i. Section 3(a), item 8) of the Senate version was adopted.
- 5.j. Section 3(a), item 9) of the Senate version was deleted.
- 5.k. Section 3(a), item 10) of the Senate version was renumbered as Section 3(a), item 9) of the reconciled version with modifications that the phrase "Adoptive parent or other solo care-giver" was deleted and in lieu thereof, the phrase "**ANY OTHER PERSON**" was inserted; the word "solely" was also inserted between the words "who" and "provides" so that the provision shall now read as:  
  
**"9) ANY OTHER PERSON WHO SOLELY PROVIDES PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT TO A CHILD OR CHILDREN;"**
- 5.l. Section 3(a), item 11) of the Senate version was renumbered as Section 3(a), item 10) of the reconciled version with the modification that the word "desertion" between the words "death," and ", disappearance" was deleted and in lieu thereof, the word "**ABANDONMENT**" was inserted.
- 5.m. The paragraph "A change in the status..." was placed after the Section 3(a)(10) of the reconciled version.
- 5.n. The Senate version was adopted as Section 3(b) of the reconciled version with the modification that the last word "deformity" was deleted and in lieu thereof, the word "**DISABILITY**" was inserted.
- 5.o. Sections 3(c), (d), and (e) of the Senate version were adopted as Sections 3(c), (d), and (e) of the reconciled version.



6. On Section 4 (*Criteria for Support*), the House version was adopted, with the deletion of the number "9" to be in consonance with the renumbering.
7. "TITLE II – SOCIAL SERVICES" was deleted.
8. On Section 5 (*Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare Services*), the Senate version was adopted with the deletion of the articles "the" before DOH, DECS, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA and DILG; also, the conjunction "on" between the words "track record" and "providing" was substituted by "IN".
9. The second paragraph of both Senate and House versions were identical, hence were adopted.
10. Subsections (a), (b), (c) and (e) of the Senate version and subsection (d) of the House version were adopted as subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), respectively, of the reconciled version.
11. On Section 6 (*Flexible Work Schedule*), the Senate version was adopted.
12. On Section 7 (*Work Discrimination*), the Senate version was adopted.
13. Section 8 of the Senate version and Section 9 of the House version were adopted as Section 8 (*Parental Leave*) of the reconciled version with modifications to read as follows:  
  

**"SEC. 8. PARENTAL LEAVE.** - IN ADDITION TO LEAVE PRIVILEGES UNDER EXISTING LAWS, PARENTAL LEAVE OF NOT MORE THAN SEVEN (7) WORKING DAYS EVERY YEAR SHALL BE GRANTED TO ANY SOLO PARENT EMPLOYEE WHO HAS RENDERED SERVICE OF AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR."
14. Section 11 of the House version was adopted as Section 9 (*Educational Benefits*) of the reconciled version.
15. Section 12 of the House version was adopted as Section 10 (*Housing Benefits*) of the reconciled version.
16. Section 13 of the House version was adopted as Section 11 (*Medical Assistance*) of the reconciled version with a modification of exchanging the words "municipal" and "city".
17. Section 15 of the House version was adopted as Section 12 (*Additional Powers and Functions of DSWD*) of the reconciled version.
18. Section 12 of the Senate version was adopted as Section 13 (*Implementing Rules and Regulations*) with modifications to read as follows:




**"SEC. 13. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. AN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE DSWD, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DOH, THE DECS, THE CHED, THE TESDA, THE NHA, AND THE DILG IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED WHICH SHALL FORMULATE, WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS."**

19. "TITLE III - FINAL PROVISIONS" was deleted.
20. Section 16 of the House version was adopted as Section 14 (*Appropriations*) of the reconciled version.
21. Sections 14, 15 & 16 of the Senate version were identical to Sections 17, 18 & 19 of the House version, all were adopted as Sections 15 (*Repealing Clause*), 16 (*Separability Clause*) & 17 (*Effectivity Clause*) of the reconciled version.
22. Provisions of the bills were subjected to further styling.
23. Though titles of both versions were identical, the Conferees agreed to insert the phrase ", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR" between the word "CHILDREN" and phrase "AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES". The title now read as:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO  
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

In case of conflict between the statements/amendments stated in this Joint Explanation and that of the provisions of the consolidated bill in the accompanying Conference Committee Report, the provisions of the latter shall prevail.

  
**GENARO M. ALVAREZ JR.**  
*Chairman  
House Panel*

  
**TERESA AQUINO ORETA**  
*Chairperson  
Senate Panel*