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AN ACT  
WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES  
ON THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THE  
APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF  
FIRST TIME JOBSEEKERS

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

1       **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as “First Time  
2 Jobseekers Assistance Act of 2017.”

3       **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to recognize  
4 the role of the youth in nation building. As such, it shall promote and protect  
5 their rights, interests and well-being, by, among others, expanding access to  
6 government services to enable young people, especially first time jobseekers,  
7 to find employment.

8       **SEC.3. Coverage.** – The provisions of this Act shall apply to all first time  
9 jobseekers, which shall include the following:

- 10 a) new graduates from all schools, colleges and universities, and from  
11 accredited institutions offering technical-vocational courses. For purposes  
12 of this Act, a new graduate is a Filipino who just finished a bachelor's  
13 degree from any college or university, or completed a technical-vocational  
14 course from any accredited institution in the Philippines, as well as high-  
15 school graduates who have completed the K-12 program.

- 1 b) an early school leaver or a person not employed or engaged in education  
2 or training or a student taking a leave of absence, from an institution  
3 offering college or tertiary education or a from a technical-vocational  
4 course, or any person working part-time while enrolled in an academic  
5 institution.

6 **SEC. 4. Waiver of Fees and Charges.** – Government agencies and  
7 instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations  
8 (GOCCs), local government units (LGUs) and government hospitals shall not  
9 collect fees or charges from a first time jobseeker: *Provided*, That such fee or  
10 charge is paid in connection with the application for and the granting of licenses,  
11 proofs of identification, clearances, certificates, or other documents usually  
12 required in the course of employment locally or abroad.

13 **SEC. 5. Covered Documentary Requirements.** – No fees shall be  
14 collected from first time jobseekers for the following documents:

- 15 (a) Police Clearance Certificate, subject to the restriction in Section 6;  
16 (b) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance;  
17 (c) Barangay Clearance;  
18 (d) Medical Certificate from public hospitals operated by the Department of  
19 Health and other government institutions;  
20 (e) Birth and/or Marriage Certificate;  
21 (f) Tax Identification Number;  
22 (g) The Unified Multi-Purpose ID card (UMID), and  
23 (h) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be  
24 required by employers for first time jobseekers.

25 **SEC. 6. Proof of Graduation, Leave of Absence, or Date of Last**  
26 **Completed Studies.** – First time jobseekers availing the benefits provided  
27 under this Act shall present the following proof:

- 28 (a) New graduates shall submit a certified true copy of the diploma or  
29 certification from the concerned academic, vocational or technical  
30 institution that the first time jobseeker has successfully completed the  
31 course required or has earned academic units.

32 The diploma or certification shall clearly state the date of graduation or  
33 completion of the degree or qualification earned and duly signed by the  
34 institution's duly authorized representative.

- 35 (b) Those on leave of absence, or those who are early school leavers or

1 those not employed or engaged in education or training shall present a  
2 certification of leave of absence (LOA) or of the date of last enrolment  
3 from the concerned academic, vocational or technical institution.

4 The certification shall state clearly the units earned, the date of last  
5 enrolment and the reason/s for taking a leave of absence. It shall be  
6 signed by the institution's duly authorized representative and the school's  
7 guidance counselor or similarly designated faculty member.

8 (c) Those working part-time shall present a certification from their academic  
9 institution that they are currently enrolled in their program, and are duly  
10 authorized by their academic institution that they are allowed to pursue  
11 employment while studying.

12 A photocopy of the diploma or certification required under this Section  
13 shall serve as sufficient proof for the concerned government agency to grant  
14 the waiver: *Provided*, That the concerned government agency shall have the  
15 right to examine the authenticity of the document submitted, and deny the  
16 waiver of fees provided under this Act; *Provided*, That the first time jobseeker  
17 shall have the opportunity to prove the authenticity of the documents he  
18 submitted; *Provided further*, That any person found guilty of fabricating or  
19 falsifying any document required under this Section shall be liable under Article  
20 172 of the Revised Penal Code.

21 **SEC. 7. One-Time Eligibility.** A first time jobseeker shall only be entitled  
22 the benefits provided under this Act only one (1) time within one (1) year from  
23 the date of graduation or the leave of absence or enrolment, as indicated in the  
24 certification required under Section 5 of this Act.

25 The concerned government agencies shall maintain an annual roster of  
26 all individuals who have been issued documents under this Act. This roster shall  
27 be submitted to the Department of Information and Communication  
28 Technology, which shall compile a database of all beneficiaries of this Act. The  
29 database shall be accessible to all the agencies that have granted the waiver  
30 of fees and charges to first time jobseekers.

31 However, the government agencies have the discretion to grant additional  
32 eligibility if the first time jobseeker is able to prove application to other  
33 opportunities for employment through a certification by their potential employer;  
34 *Provided*, that the eligibility shall be allowed to be availed of not more than two  
35 (2) times.

36 **SEC. 8. One Stop Shop.** – The Public Employment Service Office  
37 (PESO) in different provinces, cities and municipalities shall serve as a One  
38 Stop Shop for first time jobseekers to secure all documents necessary for their  
39 employment application. The PESO shall assist first time jobseekers in  
40 securing the required document, certification or clearance and in  
41 registering/enrolling first time jobseekers with relevant government agencies  
42 such as the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Social Security System, Home  
43 Development Mutual Corporation, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation,  
44 among others.

1           **SEC. 9. *Exceptions.*** – The waiver of fees and charges provided under  
2 this Act shall not include those collected in connection with an application to  
3 take a professional licensure examination conducted by the Professional  
4 Regulation Commission (PRC), application for a Philippine passport from the  
5 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), authentication and red ribbon of  
6 documents from the DFA, application for a Career Service Examination with  
7 the Civil Service Examination, and application for a driver's license from the  
8 Land Transportation Authority (LTO).

9           **SEC. 10. *Inter-agency Monitoring Committee.*** – An inter-agency  
10 monitoring committee is hereby created to monitor the compliance of the  
11 concerned government agencies granting the waiver of fees and charges as  
12 provided under this Act. The Committee shall recommend to the proper  
13 authorities the filing of an administrative complaint against any person who  
14 refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act.

15           The Committee shall be composed of the following agencies:

- 16 (a) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as chairperson;  
17 (b) Chairman of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) or any his/her  
18 authorized representatives;  
19 (c) Secretary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority  
20 (TESDA) or any his/her authorized representatives;  
21 (d) Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF) or any his/her authorized  
22 representatives;  
23 (e) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) or any his/her  
24 authorized representatives;  
25 (f) Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or any his/her  
26 authorized representatives; and  
27 (g) Chairman of the National Youth Commission (NYC) or any his/her  
28 authorized representatives.

29           **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The CHED, in  
30 consultation with DOLE, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)  
31 and other relevant stakeholders, shall issue the relevant rules and regulations  
32 to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

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

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

1 repealed or modified accordingly.

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

4 Approved,