



much-needed pre-employment documents prolong “waiting time” for fresh graduates, which is usually six months to one year<sup>1</sup>, to land into a job. Of course, long-term joblessness could also result into skill depreciation and lower confidence to face the world of work.

Hence, this bill seeks to ease the challenges faced by first-time jobseekers by waiving fees and charges collected by various government agencies for the issuance of documents needed for employment. Exempting new graduates and most especially, early school leavers and dropouts from fees and charges on mandated pre-employment documents will surely lessen their economic woes, minimize the risk of being unemployed in the long-term, and maintain their motivation to actively pursue employment. The waiver of fees and charges will also serve as an effective “activation strategy” to connect first-time jobseekers to job opportunities in the country.

The passage of this bill is to the best interest of the youth and to the country’s workforce.

  
SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the impact evaluation surveys of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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SENATE  
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Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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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 Jobseekers  
2 Assistance Act of 2017”.

3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect the  
5 interest of young people. Hence, the government has the duty to expand  
6 access to government services to enable young people, especially first-time  
7 jobseekers, to find employment.

8

9 **SEC. 3. Waiver of Fees and Charges.** – All government agencies and  
10 instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations  
11 (GOCCs), local government units (LGUs) and government hospitals shall not  
12 collect fees or charges from a first time jobseeker, who can be a fresh  
13 graduate, an early school leaver, a dropout or a student taking a leave of  
14 absence: *Provided*, That such fee or charge is paid in connection with the  
15 application for and the granting of licenses, proofs of identification,  
16 clearances, certificates, or other documents usually required in the course of  
17 employment locally or abroad: *Provided, further*, That the application for such  
18 license, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other documents is  
19 submitted within one (1) year after graduating or taking a leave from high  
20 school, college or any technical vocational course in any mode/s of learning.

1 **SEC. 4. Covered Documentary Requirements.** – The fees and charges  
2 collected for the issuance of the following documents which shall be used  
3 solely for employment purposes of first-time jobseekers shall be waived:

4 (a) Police Clearance Certificate;

5 (b) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance;

6 (c) Barangay Clearance;

7 (d) Medical Certificate;

8 (e) Birth and/or Marriage Certificate;

9 (f) Tax Identification Number;

10 (g) Community Tax Certificate;

11 (h) Certification of Eligibility;

12 (i) Authentication and Red Ribbon of documents; and

13 (j) Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may  
14 be required by employers for first time jobseekers.

15  
16 **SEC. 5. Proof of Graduation or Leave of Absence.** – Before the waiver  
17 authorized under this Act can be availed of, a certified true copy of the first  
18 time jobseeker's diploma, certification or leave of absence (LOA) from the  
19 concerned academic, vocational or technical institution that the said individual  
20 has successfully completed the course required or has earned academic units  
21 must be submitted by the applicant.

22 The diploma or certification should clearly state the date of graduation or  
23 completion of the degree or qualification earned and should be signed by the  
24 institution's duly authorized representative. Likewise, the leave of absence  
25 (LOA) should state clearly the units earned and the reason/s for taking a leave  
26 of absence and should be signed by the institution's duly authorized  
27 representative and the school's Guidance Counselor.

28 Such copy of the diploma, the certification, or the leave of absence submitted  
29 shall be sufficient for the government agency concerned to grant the waiver:  
30 *Provided*, That any person found to be guilty of fabricating or falsifying any  
31 proof of graduation or leave of absence as described in this section shall be  
32 liable under Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code.

33  
34 **SEC. 6. Role of PESO.** – The Public Employment Service Office (PESO)  
35 shall assist first-time jobseekers, especially those who experience difficulty in  
36 securing their proof of graduation or their leave of absence.

37  
38 **SEC. 7. Exceptions.** – The fees and charges to be waived shall not include  
39 those collected in connection with an application to take a professional  
40 licensure examination conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission  
41 (PRC), application for a Philippine passport from the Department of Foreign  
42 Affairs (DFA), application for a Career Service Examination, and application

1 for a driver's license from the Land Transportation Authority (LTO).

2

3 **SEC. 8. Administrative Offenses** - No government agency or instrumentality  
4 shall issue unduly restrictive regulations, which will render nugatory the  
5 benefit of the waiver as prescribed under this Act. Such shall constitute an  
6 administrative offense punishable under the Administrative Code and other  
7 pertinent laws.

8

9 **SEC. 9. Interagency Monitoring Committee.** – An interagency monitoring  
10 committee is hereby created with the Executive Secretary as Chairperson,  
11 and the heads of the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Labor and  
12 Employment, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the  
13 Department of Finance, the Department of Education, the Commission on  
14 Higher Education and other departments whose participation the committee  
15 may deem necessary as its members.

16 The committee shall monitor the compliance of the concerned government  
17 agencies and instrumentalities, and may recommend to the proper authorities  
18 the filing of an administrative complaint against any person who refuses to  
19 comply with the provisions of this Act.

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21 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
22 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall  
23 not be affected thereby.

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25 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules  
26 and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed  
27 or modified accordingly.

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29 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
30 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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32 **Approved,**