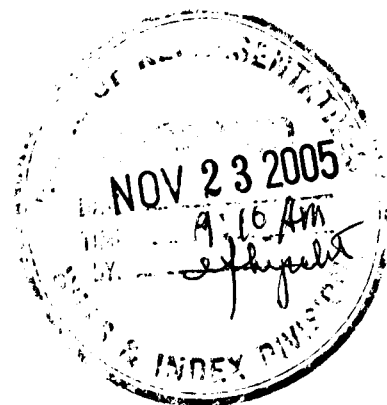




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4938

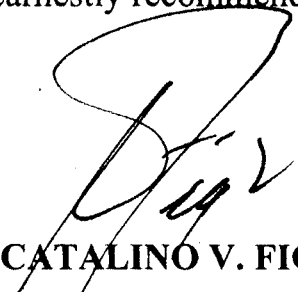
Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The government recognizes the important role of disabled persons in accelerating the economy of their respective provinces. All efforts are being exerted by the government to insure protection of their rights, provide services for their needs, and facilitate their integration in society. However, despite these efforts, the goals of equalization of opportunities and full participation of people with disabilities are still far from being achieved.

Registration is one of the most effective means to develop community-based programs to promote the welfare and protect the rights of the disabled. But due to lack of sufficient data, our country can not give protection to all the persons with disabilities (PWDs). Records of the World Health Organization showed that there are about 8.4 million PWDs in our country, and that only one (1) in every one hundred (100) PWDs is registered in health centers. On the other hand, the Department of Health has a record of only four million PWDs which only show that more than half of them are not registered. It is, therefore, my proposal to create an agency whose main concern will be the protection of the rights and the promotion of the welfare of disabled persons.

The establishment of the "Welfare of the Disabled Persons Commission" which shall be tasked to develop a broad public information and dissemination program on disability prevention, protection and rehabilitation will best address the plight of the PWDs. Consistent with the State policy to provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all, this bill becomes imperative. Hence, its approval is earnestly recommended.



CATALINO V. FIGUEROA



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

AN ACT
CREATING THE WELFARE OF THE DISABLED PERSONS
COMMISSION, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND
DUTIES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Welfare of the Disabled Persons Commission Act of 2005.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to provide disabled persons with the fullest measure of protection and assistance to help develop their abilities in all fields of endeavor and to promote their integration into the mainstream of society. It is likewise declared the policy of the State to establish programs for disability prevention.

SEC. 3. *The Welfare of the Disabled Commission.* – There is hereby created the Welfare of the Disabled Persons Commission, which shall be composed of a Chairman and two (2) members who shall be appointed by the President. The tenure of office of the Chairman shall be for five (5) years, and the members for three (3) years.

A member of the Commission must be at least thirty five (35) years of age, of good moral character and a holder of a four-year bachelor degree: *Provided*, That he or she has been engaged in various programs relative to the welfare of disabled persons for at least ten (10) years.

The Chairman shall receive an annual salary of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P350,000.00) and each member shall receive an annual salary of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00).

SEC. 4. *General Objectives.* – The Commission shall develop broad public information and dissemination programs on disability prevention, protection or rehabilitation, full participation and equalization of opportunities.

SEC. 5. *Technical Secretariat.* – The Commission shall organize a technical secretariat, to be headed by an Executive Director who shall provide the necessary technical, management and staff services.

SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Commission.* – The Commission shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a) Promulgate policies on disability prevention and promotion of the welfare of disabled persons;
- b) Formulate research and development policies on health, education, labor and social welfare for disabled persons;
- c) Undertake continuing researches and related studies on various topics pertaining to disability prevention, protection or rehabilitation, and equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities;
- d) Formulate integrated and comprehensive long and medium term national plans on the welfare of disabled persons;
- e) Conduct program evaluation and monitoring, consultative meetings and symposia on issues related to disability prevention and protection or rehabilitation;
- f) Propose legislations and initiate advocacy programs for the welfare of disabled persons;
- g) Submit periodic reports to the President of the Philippines and the Bureau of the Disabled Person's Welfare on the activities of the Commission;

h) Establish and maintain a data bank and referral system on disability prevention, rehabilitation, protection, full participation and equalization of opportunities;

i) Ensure that essential programs and services for the welfare of persons with disabilities are adequate and accessible;

j) Provide and maintain necessary steps to ensure the rights and benefits of disabled persons at all levels to achieve fuller participation and equalization of opportunities;

k) Identify and immediately address gaps in the implementation of programs and laws benefiting persons with disabilities, especially the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons;

l) Formulate strategic interventions and provide expeditious response to address the immediate concerns of persons with disabilities;

m) Facilitate the conduct of fund-raising activities and formulate innovative schemes to ensure funding support for major activities for the sector; and

n) Perform such other functions as may be directed by the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 7. **Consultations.** – The Commission shall ensure that all resolutions and issues presented are properly documented. The results of the

consultations shall be made available to the general public under such guidelines as the Commission may deem reasonable and necessary.

SEC. 8. *Cooperation of Government Agencies.* – Any government office or agency shall, upon the request of the Commission, furnish such data, reports and other informations, not otherwise prohibited by law, as may be deemed necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the year following its enactment into law. Thereafter, any amount as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,