

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 6653

18 OCT 2012
2:46 PM
C. Reyes

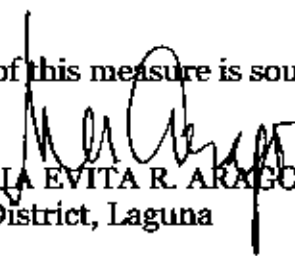
INTRODUCED BY REP. MARIA EVITA R. ARAGO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the need for rehabilitation, self-development and integration of Persons with Disabilities into the mainstream through the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities and other related laws. The Philippines likewise ratified the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as an affirmation to its commitment in promoting the rights of PWDs.

Although there are a number of legislation, projects and programs that aims to assist the PWDs, the engagement of the government in providing direct assistance in the physical and social rehabilitation of PWDs is still limited. Early intervention or regular therapy sessions for PWDs are important to enable the PWDs to develop, be integrated and to acquire skills that are necessary for daily living. The average cost of therapies or interventions for PWDs amount to hundreds of pesos for every hour of service. This makes the access to therapies and intervention sessions for poor Filipino PWDs nearly impossible. It is hoped that the passage of this bill would result in providing centers that would provide free services for qualified PWDs.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is sought.


MARIA EVITA R. ARAGO
3RD District, Laguna

House of Representatives

H.B. No. 6653

Introduced by Representative Maria Evita R. Arago

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY AND MUNICIPAL
REHABILITATIONS CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH
DISABILITIES

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

1 *Section 1. Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Youth with Disabilities
2 Empowerment".

3
4 *Section 2. Declaration of Policy.* - It is the Government's concern and
5 responsibility to facilitate the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities as provided in
6 Republic Act No. 7277 otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with
7 Disabilities" and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with
8 Disabilities." The State shall provide for the rehabilitation and training of children and
9 young adults with disabilities to ensure their right to live freely and independently will
10 be achieved.

11
12 *Section 3. Definition.* For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- 13
14 a. "Persons with disabilities" - a person who has a restriction or limitation in
15 personal mobility, cognitive, mental, sensory communication and
16 development restrictions resulting in the impairment and hindrance of
17 his/her full development and effective participation in society;
18
19 b. "Disability" - condition that limits a person in his interaction with or
20 between persons that hinders their full and effective participation in society
21 on equal basis with others;
22
23 c. "Impairment" - any loss, diminution or aberration of psychological,
24 physiological, or anatomical structure or function;
25
26 d. "Rehabilitation" - an integrated approach to physical, social, cultural, spiritual,
27 educational and vocational measures that create conditions for the individual
28 to attain the highest possible level of functionality;
29
30 e. "Social Barriers" - any legal, economic or cultural aspect of society that limits
31 the fullest possible participation of persons with disabilities. These include
32 negative attitudes that single out and exclude those with disabilities;
33
34 f. "Children with disabilities" - persons 14 years old and below who have
35 disabilities, hereinafter referred to as CWDs;
36
37 g. "Young adult with disabilities" - persons who are 15-35 years old with
38 disabilities, hereinafter referred to as YAWDs;
39

- 40 h. "Center" – a government run facility that offers free and comprehensive
41 rehabilitation services to poor children and young adults with disabilities,
42 including but not limited to stimulation and therapeutic activity centers
43 (STACs).
44

45 *Section 4. Establishment of Centers.* – Centers for children and young adult with
46 disabilities shall be established in every city and municipality under the direct
47 supervision of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), hereinafter referred to
48 as the Council, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development
49 (DSWD) and the local government unit concerned.
50

51 *Section 5. Functions of the Centers.* – The Centers will be managed and operated
52 by teams tasked to provide comprehensive rehabilitations, social and educational
53 services to children and young adults with disabilities. They shall carry out the
54 following functions:
55

- 56 a. Physical Rehabilitation – children and young adults with disabilities, whether
57 in joint or separate sessions, shall undergo regular physical and /or
58 occupational therapy sessions to improve their physical condition, mobility,
59 and cognitive skills. Parents and other volunteers will also be trained to do
60 basic exercises that will ensure the continued rehabilitation of children in
61 their own homes.
62
63 b. Social Rehabilitation – the center will provide for regular counselling and
64 social enhancement activities. Young adults may be grouped together and
65 provide the organizational development training for the formation of their
66 own advocacy association for persons with disabilities.
67
68 c. Education Component – Basic and advance special education sessions are
69 conducted in center to prepare children with disabilities for school and to
70 assist in school beneficiaries to cope with regular school load. Young adults
71 with disabilities will also be given appropriate session from basic literacy
72 training to placement in school or training facilities. Teachers in nearby
73 public schools may also be trained in inclusive education for children and
74 young adults with disabilities.
75
76 d. Psychological Component - these include personality development activities,
77 career development, job and internship coaching and orientation for potential
78 employers.
79
80 e. Information and Resource Center – it will also serve as an information center
81 for the rights and incentives accorded to persons with disabilities. Disability
82 related documents, materials and data are also to be made available in
83 accessible formats.
84

85 *Section 6. Center Workers and Volunteers.* – The Local Government Unit (LGU)
86 through the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office and Municipal Health
87 Office shall designate social workers and health workers as staff members for the
88 centers. The LGU may appoint other personnel who possess the necessary professional
89 qualifications to work efficiently with the volunteers of the center. The LGUS may also
90 call upon responsible members of the community to provide medical, educational and
91 other services for the beneficiaries. Each Center shall be composed of the following
92 people:
93

- 94 a. Occupational Therapist;
95 b. Physical Therapist;
96 c. Social workers who will identify, assess and provide the social services to be
97 rendered to the CWDs, YAWDs and their families. They area also responsible for
98 organizing and empowering the associations of the parents and YAWDs;
99 d. Special Education teacher, and
100 e. Barangay Health Worker trained in providing basic rehabilitation. They will
101 assist in the identification of beneficiaries, their disabilities and the execution of
102 rehabilitation activities.

A volunteer rehabilitation doctor or a developmental paediatrician from a nearby public hospital should evaluate the beneficiaries and provide initial rehabilitation plans to guide the team. Speech therapists, psychologists and other specialists and trained volunteers may be employed to provide services in the centers.

Section 7. Fiscal Incentives. – The following fiscal incentives shall be provided for under this Act:

- a. The Centers shall be exempted from the payment of customs, duties, taxes and tariffs on the importation of equipment and supplies used actually, directly and exclusively by the Centers pursuant to this Act.
- b. All grants, endowments, donations, or contributions used actually, directly and exclusively for the Centers shall be exempt from donor's or gift tax and are likewise tax deductible.

Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Council, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), DSWD, Department of Health (DOH) and organizations advocating the rights of persons with disabilities such as *Ang Pederasyon ng mga Magulang na May mga Anak na Maykapansan sa Pilipinas, Inc. (AMAMI)* shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after this Act takes effect. The said agencies and groups will assist and provide the necessary support in the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 9. Appropriations. – First, second and third class municipalities shall provide funding for the operation and maintenance of their Centers. The sum necessary for the continuous operation of fourth and fifth class municipality centers shall be subsidized in part by the national government and in part by the local government units concerned; provided that, for the initial year of implementation, the sum of Five Hundred Million Pesos (Php500,000,000) is hereby authorized to be charged against the savings from the current appropriations of the DILG, DSWD and DOH, provided further that thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act.

Section 10. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 11. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, Executive Orders and Republic Acts inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed repealed.

Section 12. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Approved,