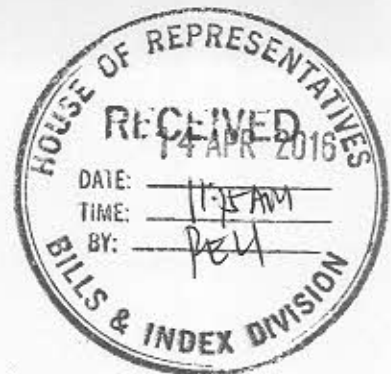


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

_____ Regular Session
House Bill No. 6505



Introduced by: **Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide special lanes and mechanism in crossing the street for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and pregnant women.

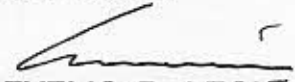
The Constitution, in its declaration of State Policies, provides under Section 12 thereof that the State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn child from conception.

The State affirms and mandates the rehabilitation, self-development and integration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) into the mainstream society through Republic Act No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities.

The "Special Lane" will be for the exclusive use of senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs) or medical conditions, and pregnant women. Although there is already a law which establishes special lanes within certain establishments, however there is a need to extend such accommodation outside the streets where they are exposed to higher risk and danger.

There is a need therefore for the government to provide special lanes for person with disabilities, senior citizens and pregnant women to afford the much needed protection, allow them freedom of movement without hindrance and aid them in their needs as members of our society. Those mentioned persons deserve special concern, compassion and courtesy because of their condition.

The foregoing reasons warrant the approval of this measure.


REP. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
Lone District, Bacolod City

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

_____ Regular Session
House Bill No. 6505

Introduced by: **Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING SPECIAL LANES AND PROVIDING MECHANISM IN
CROSSING THE STREET FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, SENIOR
CITIZENS AND PREGNANT WOMEN

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Special Lanes and Mechanisms in Crossing the Streets Act of 2016".

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of the State to provide assistance and protect the welfare of pregnant women, senior citizen and person with disabilities because of their fragile condition which requires the understanding and assistance of the society which they are a part of. Toward this end, it is necessary to ensure their safety and protection by providing special lanes and mechanisms in crossing the streets as well as to ensure the safety and systematic order in our public roads.

Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution, provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution, further, declares that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social security for them.

This Act seeks to cater the special needs of the aforementioned persons who are subjected to cross busy streets where fast moving vehicles pass by and who may not be capable of traversing the staircase of an overpass. This Act thus assures the safety of such persons while traveling within the city sans any hindrance in their movement or fear in crossing streets.

Section 3. Definition. For the purpose of this Act, the following shall refer to:

"Pregnant woman" means a woman expecting to deliver a child or children which condition shall continue until she has delivered such child or children or has suffered a miscarriage.

"Senior Citizen" or elderly refers to any person at least sixty (60) years old;

"Person with Disabilities" or Disabled Persons are those suffering from restriction of different abilities, as a result of a mental, physical or sensory impairment, to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being;

"A pedestrian crossing or crosswalk" is a place designated for pedestrians to cross a road. Crosswalks are designed to keep pedestrians together where they can be seen by motorists, and where they can cross most safely across the flow of vehicular traffic.

"Special Lane" is a lane for crossing the streets for the exclusive use of persons with disabilities, senior citizens and pregnant women. It shall have distinguishing features for easier access and accommodation of the aforementioned individuals.

"Mechanism" is a process that has been set up to accomplish a particular goal.

"Enhancements" are enhanced features to assist disabled people in pedestrian controlled crossings.

Section 4. Enhancements. Pedestrian controlled crossings will be provided with enhanced features to assist the disabled. Enhancements may include, but are not limited to:

1. Tactile cones near or under the control button. These rotate or shake when the pedestrian signal is green - the image of a "green man". This is for pedestrians with visual impairments.
2. Tactile surfacing pattern (or tactile paving) laid flush within the adjacent footways, so that visually impaired pedestrians can locate the control box and cone device and know when they have reached the other side.
3. Audible signals, such as beeps or a rapid tick in order to help blind or partially sighted pedestrians; or a short recorded message, beeps (or clicks) with long intervals in-between signifying "don't walk" mode and beeps with very short intervals signifying "walk" mode.
4. Electrostatic, touch-sensitive buttons; these require no force to activate. To confirm that a request has been registered, the buttons usually emit a chirp or other sound. They also offer anti-vandalism benefits due to

not including moving parts which are sometimes jammed on traditional push-button units.

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Transportation and Communication, the Secretary of DILG in consultation with the heads and leaders of duly recognized organizations of the local government, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

Section 6. *Budget.* 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.

Section 7. *Separability Clause.* If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected therein shall remain in force and effect.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees and executive orders inconsistent with this act is repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.