

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9203**



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH
PERMANENT DISABILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA
FOR DISABLED PERSONS”, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, persons with disabilities (PWDs) represent at least 12% of the adult population. According to the Department of Health, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, PWDs include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society.¹

The State’s commitment to removing barriers and assisting persons with disabilities to their reintegration to mainstream society is enshrined in Republic Act No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons. However, presently, PWDs are required to renew their IDs every three (3) years for the re-evaluation of their entitlement to the benefits pertaining to their status as a person with disability. This additional bureaucracy creates unwanted hurdles especially to persons with total permanent disability.

A permanent disability is a mental or physical illness or a condition that affects a major life function over the long term. A permanent disability could be as severe as the loss of an eye or as moderate as a broken leg leaving the inability to walk on grossly uneven surfaces.

¹ <https://doh.gov.ph/persons-with-disabilities>

After dialogues and consultations with advocates, this Representation echoes the sentiments that the amendment of the relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, so as to provide lifetime validity of PWD IDs, would be a welcome relief for PWDs with permanent disabilities such as pre-existing birth defects, permanent blindness or deafness, or loss of limb or body parts, sparing them the burden and inconvenience of renewing their PWD IDs every three years.

This bill recognizes the important contributions of persons with disabilities and their well-deserved reintegration to society. Thus, this proposed legislation allows for the issuance of PWD cards with lifetime validity for persons with permanent disabilities, duly certified by the Municipal or City Health Office where the person with disability resides.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED VARGAS

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9203**

INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH
PERMANENT DISABILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA
FOR DISABLED PERSONS”, AS AMENDED

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 **“Lifetime Validity of PWD Cards”**.

SECTION 2. Amendatory Provision. – Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons”, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 32. Persons with disability shall be entitled to the following:

XXX.

The above-mentioned privileges are available only to persons with disability who are Filipino citizens upon submission of any of the following as proof of his/her entitlement thereto:

- (I) An identification card issued by the city or municipal mayor or the barangay captain of the place where the persons with disability resides;
- (II) The passport of the persons with disability concerned;

or

- (III) Transportation discount fare Identification Card (ID) issued by the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP)

THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITY AS PROVIDED IN (I) AND (III) OF THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH SHALL BE VALID DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE HOLDER, AND MAY BE RENEWED IN CASE OF LOSS OR DAMAGE: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH PERMANENT DISABILITY IS CERTIFIED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH OFFICE WHERE THE PERSON WITH DISABILITY RESIDES; PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE ISSUING OFFICES SHALL IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS IS NOT ABUSED, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE HOLDER OF THE ID DIES.”

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Council on Disability Affairs shall, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,