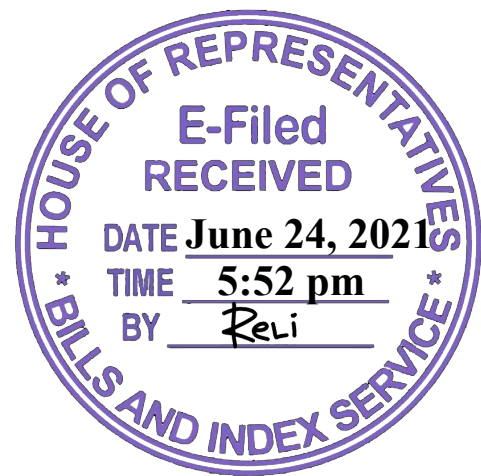


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
EIGHTEENTH (18<sup>TH</sup>) CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session



House Bill No. 9643

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Introduced by: **Deputy Speaker Jose L. Atienza, Jr.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The government's concern for the well-being of persons with disability (PWDs) in our country is clearly reflected in the enactment of Republic Act No. 7277 which was entirely geared for the rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance of PWDs. Thus, the law emphatically declared that PWDs are "part of the Philippine society and it is our responsibility to give them full support to the improvement of their well-being and integration into the mainstream of society." The law contains the declared policy of the State that "recognizes the role of the private sector in promoting the welfare of disabled persons and shall encourage partnership in programs that address their needs and concerns."

To insure the fulfillment of this declared policy, Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution warrants the adoption by the State of 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."

Consistent with these declared policies and objectives, the undersigned's attention was called by an article written by Atty. Romulo B. Macalintal, a known advocate for the rights of senior citizens (SCs) and persons with disability (PWDs), published in the Manila Times<sup>1</sup> and the Philippine Daily Inquirer<sup>2</sup> where he lamented how "Congress abandoned our elderly and pwds" when we amended Republic Act No. 9257 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003) and Republic Act No. 9442 (An Act Amending Republic Act No. 7277, Otherwise Known As The "Magna Carta For Disabled Persons"), which removed their privileges to a 20% discount on toll fees under the radio frequency identification devices (RFID) system, by mere deletion of the word "skyways" from the amended law.

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<sup>1</sup> The day Congress abandoned our elderly and PWDs – The Manila Times

<sup>2</sup> Bring back 20-percent skyway toll fee discount for elderly and PWDs | Inquirer Opinion

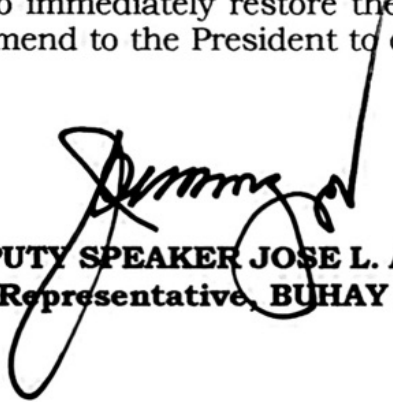
Indeed, a review of these laws clearly showed that what otherwise would have been granted to our PWDs as part of their benefits to augment their expenses for transportation, was denied of them.

This proposed legislation simply grants a 20% discount from toll fees paid through radio frequency identification devices (RFID) or similar systems, provided that the vehicle is registered under the name of the PWD and the latter presents his/her PWD Identification Card (ID) in order that this privilege may be availed of.

Likewise, as pointed out by Macalintal, it will not be difficult to apply the 20-percent RFID discount. For a load of, say, P1,000, a PWD may pay P800 only, or the P200 discount could be added to his or her RFID card, giving her or him a total load of P1,200 for a P1,000 RFID load purchase."

Thus, this bill seeks to restore the said benefits and privileges to our PWDs and to rectify the wrong committed against them with the full assurance that we will never abandon them in that their rights and privileges will always be our concern. Whatever discount our PWDs could derive from the application of this legislation will surely redound to their benefits and welfare considering the pandemic condition we are now suffering.

In view of the foregoing, the undersigned respectfully moves for the immediate passage of this bill in order to immediately restore the said benefits and privileges to our PWSs and to recommend to the President to certify it as an URGENT BILL to expedite its passage.



**DEPUTY SPEAKER JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.**  
**Representative, BUHAY Party-list**

Republic of the Philippines  
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**AN ACT**

**GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 32(2)(7) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED BY RA 10754, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT EXPANDING THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD)."**

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

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippine Congress Assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** Section 32(a) (7) of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended by RA 10754, otherwise known as "An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability (PWD)". is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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

“(a) XXXX XXX XXXX

“(7) On actual fare for land transportation travel such as, but not limited to, public utility buses or jeepneys (PUBs/PUJs), taxis, asian utility vehicles (AUVs), shuttle services, **skyways and expressways whose toll fees are paid through the radio frequency identification devices (RFID) or similar systems** and public railways, including light Rail Transit (LRT), Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Philippine National Railways (PNR); **In the availment of this privilege, the vehicle must be registered in the name of the PWD and the latter shall present and submit a copy of his PWD Identification Card (ID) to the toll operator when applying for RFID. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), Philippine**

**National Railways (PNR), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) shall issue corresponding circulars or directives to the public land transport**

**sector for the implementation of these rules to ensure compliance herewith, as well as requirements to these operators to disseminate information on the benefits of the persons with disability by posters, handbills or pamphlets on board their vehicles.**

SECTION 2. ***Repealing Clause.***- All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall hereby revised or amend accordingly.

SECTION 3. ***Effectivity Clause.***- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*