

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL No. 10540

Introduced by Rep. **DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR INCREASED BENEFITS FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES (PWDs)**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the benefits of persons with disabilities (PWDs) mandating the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to provide mechanisms for the availment of the same.

The pandemic crisis has caused so much hardships for people of all ages and statuses. But among the hardest hit sectors have been people with disabilities. Even under normal times, they already are enduring hardships that hamper their mobility and pose tremendous challenges to their physical survival. The pandemic exacerbated what they already endure.

They may have benefits provided by law but set under the contexts of lockdowns and quarantines which these benefits appear miniscule and could hardly provide them the necessary means to lead and live decent lives. Discounts in medicines, food, recreation, lodging and other benefits are minimal as to create significant impact on the quality of lives of people with disabilities. Substantial and expanded range of services and benefits are most needed. Hence, this bill.

Approval of this measure is thus earnestly sought


DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This bill shall be known as EXPANDED BENEFITS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2021.

Section 2. Declaration of State Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to attend to the needs of its citizens especially those belonging to the most vulnerable sectors like persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Towards this objective, the State shall enact measures that will significantly promote and enhance the well-being of persons with disabilities that would increase the quality of lives of people who have inadequacies and lacked the needed provenance to sustain themselves. It shall also be the policy of the State to foster a more equitable life for them given their conditions.

Section 3. The government with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as lead agency shall review, with the objective of increasing the present benefits enjoyed by persons with disabilities. The DSWD shall formulate and implement a package of measures that will expand the benefits and privileges of persons with disabilities and institutionalize these for the benefit and welfare of PWDs.

Section 4. The government may call on other agencies of the government including local government units and enlist the cooperation and support of the private sectors in carrying out the objective of this bill.

Section 5. Funding. – The State shall provide the amount of five hundred million pesos (P500M) to implement this Act and shall thereafter include the needed amount to sustain the assistance.

Section 6. Separability Clause. – If for any reason, any part of provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,