

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **10558**



Introduced by
ANAKALUSUGAN REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We are filing this bill just in time to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2021. This is in line with our Constitutional Mandate, under Section 11, Article XIII which declares 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.”

Also, this proposed legislation is a product of the call of the group of senior citizen and persons with disability groups, ably advocated by Atty Romulo Macalintal who wrote articles published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer¹ and Manila Times², lamenting that “Congress abandoned our elderly and pwds” when we amended R.A. 9257 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003) and R.A. 9442 (An Act Amending R.A. 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.

¹ [Macalintal urges lawmakers to sponsor bill giving 20% toll discount to seniors | Inquirer News](#)

² [//www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/10/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/the-day-congress-abandoned-our-elderly-and-pwds/807426](http://www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/10/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/the-day-congress-abandoned-our-elderly-and-pwds/807426)

This bill rectifies a wrong and restores a right previously granted to Persons with Disability (PWDs) under the original RA 9442 and its IRR which granted “at least 20-percent discount in public railways, skyways and bus fare for PWDs” and that such 20-percent discount shall apply to “**toll fees of skyways and expressways.**”

In view of the foregoing, the undersign respectfully moves for the immediate passage of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MT Defensor', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

MICHAEL “MIKE” T. DEFENSOR
Anakalusugan Party-List Representative

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1 AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO
2 PERSONS WITH DISABILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION
3 32(A)(7) OF R.A. 7277, AS AMENDED BY R.A. 10754, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN
4 ACT EXPANDING THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES OF PERSONS WITH
5 DISABILITY (PWD).”

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

6 Section. 1. Section 32(a)(7) of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended by R.A. 10754,
7 otherwise known as “An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability
8 (PWD)”, is hereby further amended to read as follows”

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

10 “(a) xxx xxx xxx

11 “(7) On actual fare for land transportation travel such as, but not limited to, public
12 utility buses or jeepneys (PUBs/PUJs), taxis, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs), shuttle
13 services, **skyways and expressways whose toll fees are paid through the radio**
14 **frequency identification devices (RFID) or similar systems** and public railways,
15 including light Rail Transit (LRT), Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Philippine
16 National Railways (PNR); **In the availment of this privilege, the vehicle must be**
17 **registered in the name of the PWD and the latter shall present and submit a**
18 **copy of his PWD Identification Card (ID) to the toll operator when applying**
19 **for RFID. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC),**
20 **Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), Philippine National Railways (PNR),**
21 **Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and Land Transportation Franchising and**
22 **Regulatory Board (LTFRB) shall issue the proper implementing rules to**
23 **enforce the benefits for the welfare of Persons with Disability (PWD).**

1 SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* –If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 10963 and other relevant laws and
5 regulations are hereby modified accordingly. Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
6 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is
7 inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
8 accordingly.

9 SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

11 Approved,