

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1436



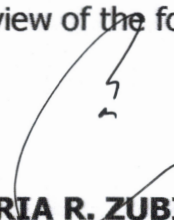
Introduced by
Representative JOSE MARIA R. ZUBIRI JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A 2013 Philippine Institute of Development Studies report showed that 50% of PWDs who live in an urban setting are unemployed, with the percentage going much higher for those living in rural settings. The same report also showed that 45.9% of PWDs in an urban setting and 61.9% of PWDs in a rural setting are living below poverty line.¹ Although there has been progress in integrating our PWDs into society, more can still be done to further ensure that they are afforded the same opportunities as those given to other able-bodied individuals. And according to a 2019 National Council on Disability Affairs, there are over 1.6 million Filipinos with disabilities in the country.

The Philippines still has a long way to go in making the entire country inclusive to all. This bill seeks to bring us closer to this goal by increasing the positions reserved for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all government agencies, offices and corporations from one percent to two percent, and mandating private corporations to employ a workforce, at least one percent of which is from the same sector.

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


JOSE MARIA R. ZUBIRI JR.
Representative
3rd District, Bukidnon

¹ <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/126332-elections-pwd-philippines-platforms>

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE POSITIONS RESERVED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS

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

SECTION 1. *Equal Opportunity for Employment.* – Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Equal Opportunity for Employment.* – No person with disability shall be denied access to opportunities for suitable employment. A qualified employee with disability shall be subject to the same terms and conditions of employment and the same compensation, privileges, benefits, fringe benefits, incentives or allowances as a qualified able-bodied person.

At least [one percent (1%)] **TWO PERCENT (2%)** of all positions in all government agencies, offices or corporations shall be reserved for persons with disability: *Provided*, That private corporations [with more than one hundred (100) employees are encouraged to] **SHALL** reserve at least one percent (1%) of all positions for persons with disability."

SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GCG), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare

and Development (DSWD), and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,