



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5468



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT
GRANTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD) A JOBSEEKER'S
ALLOWANCE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITY

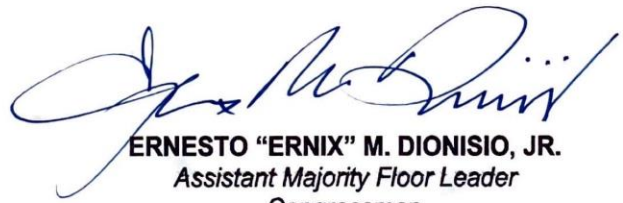
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations states: "States parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation"

Likewise, Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution states: "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. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

In line with this, this bill seeks to introduce incentives for People with Disabilities to motivate and encourage them to seek vocational education and eventually, job opportunities.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Congressman
First Congressional District of Manila



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

Section 1. Jobseeker's Allowance - Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC 10. Vocational Guidance and Counseling. The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall implement measures providing and evaluating vocational guidance and counseling to enable disabled persons to secure, retain and advance in employment. It shall ensure the availability and training of counselors and other suitability qualified staff responsible for the vocational guidance and counseling of disabled persons.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS WITH DISABILITY, WHO AVAIL OF VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES FROM ANY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY, SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY STIPEND AMOUNTING TO NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP500.00). THE STIPEND IS INTENDED TO DEFRAID PART OF THE EXPENSES INCURRED IN RELATION TO TRAINING AND JOB SEARCH. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT OFFER VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY SHALL ENDORSE THEIR PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, WHICH SHALL OVERSEE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE

STIPEND. PROVIDED, THAT THE MONTHLY STIPEND SHALL ONLY COVER THE FIRST THREE MONTHS SINCE THE START OF THE VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELING SERVICE AVAILED. PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE STIPEND CAN ONLY BE GRANTED TO AN UNEMPLOYED PERSSON WITH DISABILITY ONCE A YEAR.

Section 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the National Council on Disability Affairs, shall formulate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

Section 3. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, such an amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Section 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
Approved,