

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6555



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which the Philippines ratified in 2008, the State Parties to the Convention must adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and take into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of PWDs in all policies and programs.

In turn, Republic Act No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, as amended, provided for the issuance of identification cards (IDs) to PWDs. The PWD ID is the basis for the entitlement of certain benefits, privileges, and discounts to PWDs, as provided under Republic Act Nos. 9442, 10754, 11215, and 10747.

At present, PWD IDs have a validity of five (5) years, pursuant to the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) Administrative Order No. 001, Series of 2021. The rationale for a limited period of validity of the PWD ID is for the re-evaluation of the cardholder's disability status. Moreover, the limited period is for the purpose of regularly updating the database of the government on persons with disabilities.

However, the period of five (5) years is too short for the validity of a PWD ID, considering that some disabilities endure for a long time, while some disabilities can be considered permanent in nature and therefore do not require the re-evaluation of the disability status from time to time. Thus, this measure seeks to extend the period of validity of PWD IDs to ten (10) years for non-permanent disabilities, while the period of validity for permanent disabilities should be during the lifetime of the holder, provided that National Council on Disability Affairs, together with the Department of Health, shall establish the necessary guidelines in determining what constitutes permanent or non-permanent disability.

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


ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

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HOUSE BILL NO. **6555**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE VALIDITY PERIODS OF
PERSON WITH DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARDS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS”,
AS AMENDED**

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

SECTION 1. Sec. 32 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disability” is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 32. Persons with disability shall be entitled to the following:

xxx

The abovementioned privileges are available only to PWD who are Filipino citizens upon submission of any of the following as proof of his/her entitlement thereto:

(I) An identification card issued by the city or municipal mayor or the barangay captain of the place where the PWD resides;

(II) The passport of the PWD concerned; or

(III) Transportation discount fare Identification Card (ID) issued by the [~~National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP)~~]
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (NCDA).

THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITY AS PROVIDED IN (I) AND (III) OF THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH SHALL BE VALID DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE HOLDER WHILE THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH NON-PERMANENT DISABILITY SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS; PROVIDED, THAT THE NCDA, TOGETHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES IN DETERMINING WHAT

CONSTITUTES PERMANENT OR NON-PERMANENT DISABILITY; PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE NCDA SHALL IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PROPER USE OF THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE HOLDER OF THE PWD ID DIES.

SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Council on Disability Affairs shall, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,