



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

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 810**



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**Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN**

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**AN ACT**  
**REORGANIZING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY**  
**AFFAIRS INTO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS,**  
**DEFINING ITS POWER AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Differently abled persons are vital members of our nation, contributing significantly to society in their own unique ways. Despite the challenges they face in their daily lives, they strive to survive and contribute to the economy. Recognizing their valuable contributions, it is imperative for our country to provide them with all possible assistance to alleviate their burdens.

In 1978, the first significant step towards assisting differently abled persons was taken with the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 1509, which established the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons (NCCDP). As the needs of differently abled persons changed over time, the NCCDP underwent several transformations. On July 22, 1987, Executive Order No. 232 reorganized the NCCDP into the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP). Subsequently, on February 28, 2008, Executive Order No. 709 renamed the NCWDP as the National Council on Disability Affairs, placing it under the Office of the President.

Over time, the needs and concerns of differently abled persons have continued to shift and expand. It is therefore timely to amend the current structure of the government agency responsible for developing policies and

coordinating services for differently abled persons to better address these ever-changing needs.

To demonstrate our genuine concern for the welfare of differently abled persons, this bill seeks to reorganize the National Council on Disability Affairs into a National Commission on Disability Affairs. This proposal comes after consultations with my PWD constituents and aims to translate their voices into meaningful actions. Under the new structure, representatives from key government agencies crucial to the welfare of differently abled persons—including the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and Commission on Higher Education—will serve as members. This collaborative approach will enable the development of more effective and comprehensive solutions for the benefit of differently abled persons.

With the establishment of this commission, we will enhance our outreach to differently abled persons and ensure better oversight of the Persons with Disability Affairs Office established by local government units. This initiative promises to improve data collection essential for servicing differently abled persons and facilitate the formulation of policies to enhance their quality of life. By taking these steps, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that differently abled persons have the opportunity to live fulfilling lives in our society.

In light of the preceding, this bill's approval is fervently sought.

  
**LORDAN G. SUAN**  
Cagayan de Oro City – 1<sup>st</sup> District



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**AN ACT**  
**REORGANIZING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS**  
**INTO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS,**  
**DEFINING ITS POWER AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*National*  
2 *Commission on Disability Affairs Act.*”  
3

4           **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State recognizes that persons with  
5 disabilities are part of Philippine society and are thus entitled to the same  
6 rights as other people. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to support,  
7 protect, and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Towards this  
8 end, the State shall establish a National Commission on Disability Affairs to  
9 formulate policies and coordinate activities for persons with disabilities.  
10

11           **SEC. 3. *National Commission on Disability Affairs.*** – There is hereby  
12 created a National Commission on Disability Affairs, hereinafter referred to  
13 as the Commission. It shall be attached to the Office of the President.  
14

15           **SEC. 4. *Mandate.*** – The Commission shall be the national government  
16 agency to formulate policies and coordinate activities of all agencies,  
17 whether public or private, concerning disability issues and concerns. It shall  
18 be the lead agency tasked to steer the course of program development for  
19 persons with disabilities and the delivery of services to the sector.

1  
2       **SEC. 5. Power and Functions.** – The Commission shall exercise the  
3 following powers and functions to carry out its mandate:

4       (a) Prepare and adopt an integrated and comprehensive long-term  
5       National Rehabilitation Plan, which will ensure the formulation and  
6       implementation of programs and projects to promote the  
7       rehabilitation self-reliance, and development of persons with  
8       disabilities;

9  
10       (b) Conduct consultative meetings and prepare symposia with all  
11       stakeholders, and undertake program evaluation and monitoring to  
12       ensure that comprehensive, relevant and timely programs and  
13       services are adequate and accessible to persons with disabilities;

14  
15       (c) Identify and immediately address gaps in the implementation of  
16       programs and laws benefitting persons with disabilities, especially  
17       the Magna Carta for Disabled persons, as amended;

18  
19       (d) Formulate strategic interventions and provide an expeditious  
20       response to address the immediate concerns of persons with  
21       disabilities;

22  
23       (e) Propose new policies and new legislation, or amendments to existing  
24       ones, that will ensure the attainment of its objectives;

25  
26       (f) Act as overall coordinating body to rationalize the functions and  
27       activities of government agencies, private identities, and  
28       international organizations operating in the Philippines, and the  
29       enforcement of laws related to and affecting persons with  
30       disabilities;

31  
32       (g) Establish, develop, and maintain a data bank on disabilities in  
33       partnership with concerned government agencies and non-  
34       government organizations and strengthen the referral services to  
35       ensure availability of data to stakeholders and services to persons  
36       with disabilities including provision of assistive devices;

37  
38       (h) Act as a national consultative and advisory body to the President  
39       on matters within its competence;

1 (i) Facilitate the conduct of fund-raising activities and formulate  
2 innovative schemes to ensure funding support for major activities for  
3 the sector;

4  
5 (j) Educate and reorient the general public in its attitude and thinking  
6 with regards to persons with disabilities;

7  
8 (k) Submit quarterly reports to the Congress.

9  
10 **SEC. 6. Composition.** - The Commission shall be composed of the  
11 following members:

12  
13 (a) A Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President;

14  
15 (b) The Secretaries of the following Departments who shall sit in the  
16 Commission as ex-officio members: Department of Health (DOH),  
17 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),  
18 Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills  
19 Development Authority (TESDA), and Commission on Higher  
20 Education (CHED)

21  
22 The Secretaries mentioned are authorized to designate an  
23 Undersecretary to represent them.

24  
25 (c) Private sector representatives selected from the following sectors:

- 26 (1) Learning Disabilities;  
27 (2) Intellectual Disabilities;  
28 (3) Hearing Impairment;  
29 (4) Visual Impairment;  
30 (5) Physical and Mobility Impairments;  
31 (6) Emotional / Behavioral Disorder;  
32 (7) Multi-Handicaps;  
33 (8) Pervasive Development Disorders.

34  
35 The incumbent members of the Commission, however, shall continue in  
36 office unless replaced or removed from office by the President.

37  
38 **SEC. 7. Chairperson.** - The Chairperson who shall be appointed by the  
39 President, shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 40 (a) Call and preside over the meetings of the Commission;  
41 (b) Manage and administer the affairs of the Commission;

- 1 (c) Monitor the implementation of policies approved by the  
2 Commission;
- 3 (d) Sign communications for the Commission and represent the  
4 Commission whenever necessary;
- 5 (e) Solicit and accept, on behalf of the Commission, gifts, grants, or  
6 donations in accordance with government rules, regulations and  
7 policies;
- 8 (f) Execute contracts in the pursuit of the Commission's objectives as  
9 may be authorized by the Commission, in accordance with  
10 government rules and regulations; and
- 11 (g) Organize permanent or ad-hoc committees, consisting of members  
12 of the Commission or such other experts as are deemed necessary  
13 for the discharge of the functions and objectives of the Commission.  
14

15 **SEC. 8. Executive Director.** – The Chairperson shall be assisted by an  
16 Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Chairperson. The  
17 Executive Director shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 18 (a) Administer the affairs of the Commission;
- 19 (b) Implement policies, plans, and programs approved by the  
20 Commission;
- 21 (c) Exercise direct supervision and control over all the organizational  
22 units placed under his/her jurisdiction including recommending to  
23 the Chairperson the appointment of personnel of the Commission  
24 and disciplinary actions as may be necessary for the effective  
25 management of the Commission;
- 26 (d) Represent the Commission in administrative and legislative  
27 bodies and in conferences and seminars that require participation  
28 of the Commission;
- 29 (e) Prepare and submit to the Commission the annual report on the  
30 operations of the Commission and such other reports as may be  
31 required by the Commission; and
- 32 (f) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.  
33

34 **SEC. 9. Deputy Executive Directors.** – The Executive Director shall  
35 be assisted by two Deputies: a Deputy Executive Director for  
36 Administration and a Deputy Executive for Operations. The Deputy  
37 Executive Directors shall be appointed by the Chairperson.  
38

39 **SEC.10. QUALIFICATIONS.** – No person shall be appointed  
40 Chairperson, Executive Director, or Executive Director of the  
41 Commission unless he or she is a citizen and resident of the  
42 Philippines, of good moral character, of proven integrity, and with

1 at least seven (7) years of competence and expertise in delivering  
2 service to persons with disabilities.

3  
4 **SEC. 11. Regional Directors.** – The Commission shall have one  
5 Regional

6 Director for every region who shall supervise the official activities of all  
7 provinces, cities, and municipalities under the jurisdiction of the  
8 concerned region. He/she shall be the primary coordinating and  
9 overseeing authority over the Person with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO)  
10 established by local government units (LGUs). The Regional Director may  
11 be assisted by one (1) Assistant Regional Director. The Regional Director  
12 shall have, with their respective administrative regions, the following  
13 functions:

- 14 (a) Implement laws, policies, plans, programs, projects, rules, and  
15 regulations of the Commission;  
16 (b) Provide efficient and effective service to the people;  
17 (c) Coordinate with regional offices of other departments, offices,  
18 and agencies;  
19 (d) Coordinate with the LGUs and their PDAOs; and  
20 (e) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or  
21 assigned by the Chairperson.

22  
23 **SEC. 12. Sectoral and Industry Task Forces.** – The Commission  
24 may create the sectoral and industry task forces, technical working groups,  
25 advisory bodies, or committees for the furtherance of its objectives.  
26 Additional private sector representatives, such as from the academe, civil  
27 society organizations, and federation of private industries directly  
28 involved with persons with disabilities, as well as representatives of other  
29 LGUs and government-owned-and-controlled-corporations (GOCCs) may  
30 be appointed to these working groups. Government disability affairs  
31 professionals may be tapped to partake in the work of the Commission  
32 through these working groups.

33  
34 **SEC. 13. Structure and Staffing Pattern.** – Subject to the approval  
35 of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Commission  
36 shall determine its organizational structure and create new divisions or  
37 units as it may deem necessary, and shall appoint officers and employees  
38 of the Commission in accordance with the civil service law, rules, and  
39 regulations.

40  
41 **SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty  
42 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, The National Council on

1 Disability Affairs (NCDA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM)  
2 and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary  
3 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.  
4

5 **SEC. 15. Appropriations.** - The fund needed to initially  
6 implement this Act shall be included in the current fiscal year's  
7 appropriation of National Council on Disability Affairs. Thereafter, the  
8 amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the Commission  
9 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.  
10

11 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision here in be  
12 declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the  
13 other provisions of this Act.  
14

15 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and  
16 regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions  
17 of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
18

19 **SEC. 18. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
20 after its publication in the Official Gazette of in any two (2) newspapers  
21 of general circulation in the Philippines  
22

23 *Approved,*