



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1916**



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ S. PUMAREN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) continue to face systemic barriers to full participation in society, including limited access to education, healthcare, employment, and social protection. Despite the passage of landmark legislation such as Republic Act No. 7277, or the “*Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities*,” many indigent PWDs remain at the margins, unseen, underserved, and under-supported.¹

According to the 2016 **National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS)** conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority, approximately **12% of Filipinos aged 15 and older** experience severe disability, while nearly half report moderate limitations.² These conditions are often compounded by poverty, resulting in a cycle of exclusion that prevents PWDs from achieving a decent standard of living.³

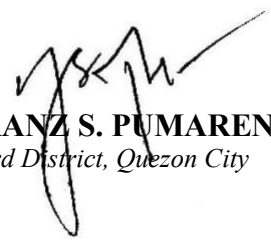
The **1987 Philippine Constitution**, in **Article XIII, Section 11**, mandates the State to prioritize the needs of vulnerable groups, including PWDs, within the framework of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health and social development.⁴ To fulfill this constitutional mandate, there is an urgent need to establish a social pension system for indigent PWDs, similar to the existing pension program for indigent senior citizens.

This measure seeks to grant a **monthly disability allowance of Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000)** to indigent PWDs.

This modest but meaningful support can help cover the additional expenses often associated with disability, such as medicines, assistive devices, transportation, and basic needs. The **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**, in coordination with the **National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA)**, shall be tasked to maintain a secure, updated, and accessible database to ensure effective targeting and delivery of benefits.

While this proposal entails fiscal support from the government, its **social return is far greater**. By investing in the dignity, inclusion, and well-being of indigent PWDs, we move closer to building a society that leaves no one behind.

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


FRANZ S. PUMAREN
3rd District, Quezon City

¹ Republic Act No. 7277, *Magna Carta for Disabled Persons*, as amended by RA 9442 and RA 10070.

² 2016 *National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS)*, Philippine Statistics Authority (<https://psa.gov.ph>).

³ “Disability and Poverty in the Philippines,” *The Borgen Project*, <https://borgenproject.org/disability-and-poverty-in-the-philippines>.

⁴ 1987 *Philippine Constitution*, Article XIII, Section 11



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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE SOCIAL PENSION OF
INDIGENT PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs), AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Social Pension for Indigent
2 Persons with Disability Act.”

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and
4 dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the
5 people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
6 employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. The State shall
7 provide priority needs of vulnerable sectors such as persons with disabilities. In pursuance of this
8 end, social protection measures such as the grant of monthly social pension shall be extended to
9 indigent persons with disabilities.

10 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined
11 as follows:

- 12 a. “Indigent Person” – refers to a person who has no visible means of income or support,
13 or whose income may not be sufficient for the subsistence or basic needs of his/her
14 family, as may be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development
15 (DSWD).
16 b. “Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)” – refer to individuals suffering from restriction of
17 different abilities as a result of a mental, physical or sensory disability, impairment,
18 and handicap to perform an activity in the manner within the range considered normal
19 for a human being.

- c. “Indigent Person with Disability” – refers to a person with disability who has no pension, permanent source of income, or regular support from his/her relatives to meet his/her basic needs.
- d. “Impairment” – is any loss, diminution, or aberration of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure of function.
- e. “Disability” refers to:
 - i. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more psychological, physiological, or anatomical functions of an individual or activities of such individual;
 - ii. A record of such an impairment; or
 - iii. Being regarded as having such an impairment.
- f. “Handicap” – refers to a disadvantage for a given individual resulting from an impairment or a disability, that limits or prevents the functions or activity, that is considered normal given the age and sex of the individual.

SECTION 4. Coverage. – All indigent PWDs, as verified and certified by the DSWD and the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) shall be covered by the provisions of this Act. The eligible PWD shall be entitled to a monthly social pension from the DSWD amounting to Two thousand pesos (Php 2,000.00) to augment his/her daily subsistence, subject to existing government auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. Database of PWDs. – To implement effectively, a database of all eligible indigent PWDs should be created by the NCDA and DSWD. Renewed efforts must be made to collect comprehensive, accurate and updated information that can be disaggregated according to a wide range of variables as a basis for effective planning and implementation services, and monitoring, and evaluation. The creation and management of this database shall adhere strictly to the standards set forth in Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012.”

SECTION 6. Policy on PWD Identification Cards. – The issuance of PWD Identification Cards pursuant to Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities,” as amended, along with other relevant administrative issuances and local ordinances, shall incorporate the information necessary for the granting of the monthly social pension to eligible PWDs. The issuance of an authentic PWD Identification Card is a pre-requisite to qualify as a beneficiary under this Act.

SECTION 7. Penal Provisions. – The penalties shall apply to the following:

- a. Any PWD, or his/her parent or his/her relative of any degree of consanguinity or affinity, or any third person found to be deliberately committing any fraudulent act of enrolling a PWD to the program when said person is not indigent shall suffer the following:
 - i. For the first violation, a fine of not less than Twenty-five thousand pesos (Php 25,000.00) but not exceeding Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00); and

1 ii. For any subsequent violation, a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos
2 (Php50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00).

3 b. Any person, natural or judicial, violating any provision of this Act and its Implementing
4 Rules and Regulations (IRR), except violations pertaining to Subsection a of this
5 Section, shall be penalized with a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php
6 50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00). If the
7 violator is a corporation, organization or any similar juridical entity, the officials
8 directly involved and responsible shall be liable therefor.

9 c. If any PWD, or his/her parent or his/her relative of any degree of consanguinity or
10 affinity or any third person fails to settle the fines specific on Subsections a and b of
11 this Section, the penalty of aresto mayor in its maximum period shall be imposed.

12 **SECTION 8. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall
13 be included in the annual General Appropriations of the year following its enactment into law and
14 thereafter.

15 **SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
16 effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in consultation with the NCDA, Department of Interior and
17 Local Government, Department of Health, and other relevant government agencies and non-
18 government organizations, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the
19 provisions of this Act.

20 **SECTION 10. *Suppletory Clause.*** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise
21 known as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities,” as amended by Republic Act No. 10754
22 and Republic Act No. 9442, have suppletory effect to the provisions of this Act.

23 **SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or
24 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

25 **SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
26 other issuances, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
27 are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

28 **SECTION 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in
29 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

30 *Approved,*