



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1997**



Introduced by Representative Midy N. Cua
Lone District, Quirino

**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

Under Article XII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution, the State shall prioritize the needs of the disabled. In lieu of this, Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Disabled Persons" was enacted in 1992 to provide persons with disability (PWD) equal opportunity. Under the law, the state is tasked to exert all effort to remove barriers prejudicial to PWDs.

Since then, several measures have been passed to assist PWDs in securing employment. Republic Act No. 9442 provides a twenty percent (20%) discount on services while Republic Act No. 10524 expands the positions reserved for PWDs in government agencies and private corporations.

The proposed measure strengthens government's commitment to ensure equal opportunity. It addresses barriers to entry into the workforce by easing the financial burden on PWDs seeking employment opportunities. While training and counseling services are offered freely by government agencies, access to these may entail out-of-pocket costs for items such as food and transportation.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is requested.


MIDY N. CUA
Representative
Lone District, Quirino



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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 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 DEFRAY 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 OR COUNSELING SERVICE AVAILED. PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE STIPEND CAN ONLY BE GRANTED TO AN UNEMPLOYED PERSON 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 three (3) months of its effectivity.

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

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6 Section 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof
7 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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9 Section 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid,
10 other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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12 Section 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
13 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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15 Approved,