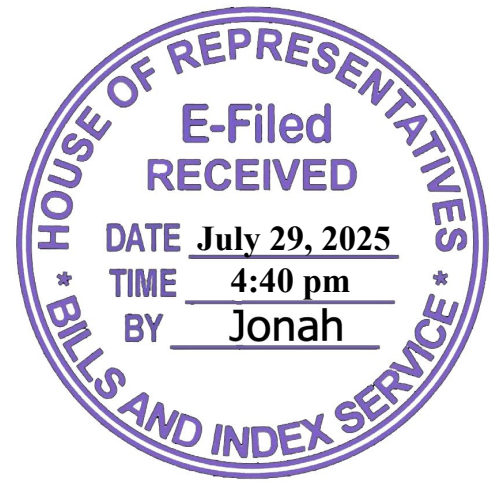




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2528



Introduced by Representative Giselle Mary L. Maceda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that “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.” This provision reflects the State’s commitment to uphold the welfare and dignity of all Filipinos, especially those who are most vulnerable.

One of the ways the government has given life to this constitutional provision is through the enactment of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.” This landmark legislation was later amended to expand the rights and privileges granted to persons with disabilities (PWDs), including access to discounts, special services, and entitlement to identification cards that facilitate their enjoyment of benefits.

Currently, PWD IDs are valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of issuance, subject to the re-evaluation of the beneficiary’s existing disability status. While this measure aims to ensure that only those qualified continue to receive benefits, it inadvertently imposes an undue burden on PWDs who are compelled to undergo a repetitive and often tedious renewal process every three years. The periodic renewal requirement can be cumbersome, especially for those who have mobility issues, limited financial resources, or live far from issuing offices. It also introduces unnecessary bureaucracy and cost, contrary to the State’s duty to provide accessible and affordable services to the disabled.

This bill seeks to rationalize the validity period of PWD identification cards by making it contingent upon the nature of the disability. Specifically, the bill proposes the lifetime validity of PWD IDs issued to persons with permanent disability, thereby eliminating the burden of periodic renewals. For individuals with temporary disabilities, PWD IDs shall be valid for five (5) years, subject to renewal upon completion of a medical reassessment conducted by an appropriate medical practitioner.

By adopting a disability-sensitive approach in ID validity, this proposed measure upholds the spirit of the Constitution and the intent of the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons—to empower, not encumber; to support, not burden. It is a step towards a more compassionate, inclusive, and efficient public service for all Filipinos.

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



REP. GISELLE MARY L. MACEDA
4th District, Manila City



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2528**

Introduced by Representative Giselle Mary L. Maceda

AN ACT
GRANTING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR
PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITY AND RATIONALIZING THE
VALIDITY PERIOD FOR TEMPORARY DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION
CARDS, FURTHER 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Disabled Persons", as amended by Republic Act No. 9442, 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 persons with **PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY** disability who are Filipino citizens upon submission of **AN IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AFFAIRS OFFICE (PDAO) OR A DESIGNATED FOCAL PERSON PERFORMING PDAO FUNCTIONS, DULY SIGNED BY THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL MAYOR OF THE PLACE WHERE THE PERSONS WITH**

DISABILITY RESIDE, AS PROOF OF THEIR ENTITLEMENT THERETO.

THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS (IDs) ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY SHALL CONFORM TO THE UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRESCRIBED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (NCDA) AND ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

THE IDs ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES SHALL HAVE LIFETIME VALIDITY. CONVERSELY, THE IDs FOR PERSONS WITH TEMPORARY DISABILITIES SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS, AND MAY BE RENEWED ONLY UPON COMPLETION OF REASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY AN APPROPRIATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

THE IDs, AS PROVIDED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH SHALL BE FREE OF CHARGE, INCLUDING REISSUANCE DUE TO LOSS OR DAMAGE.

SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCDA and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Health (DOH), and other government agencies and stakeholders, issue the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

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

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,