



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 2957



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to promote social justice in all phases of national development¹ and to give priority to the needs of the underprivileged, particularly the elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).² Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the *Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities*, likewise affirms the State's obligation to ensure the rehabilitation, self-development, and integration of PWDs into mainstream society.³

Despite these *impramatur*, many PWDs across the Philippines continue to experience significant social and economic exclusion. One of the most pressing challenges they face is the added cost of living with a disability, which includes expenses for assistive devices, transportation, maintenance medication, personal assistance, therapy, and specialized nutrition. These costs are not only persistent but also serve as real barriers to education, employment, health care, and community participation.

While some local government units (LGUs) provide financial assistance to registered PWDs, these programs are not uniformly available nationwide. Access to support is highly dependent on the resources and priorities of individual LGUs, resulting in unequal and inconsistent implementation of disability-related assistance. This situation leaves many PWDs in poorer or underserved areas without any form of financial support.

According to the National Council on Disability Affairs, the number of registered PWDs in the country has now reached more than 2.5 million as of June 2025, based on data from the Department of Health. This represents a 35 percent increase from over 1.8 million registered PWDs in June 2024.⁴ The increase

¹ CONST., art. II, sec. 10.

² CONST., art. XIII, sec. 11.

³ An Act Providing for the Rehabilitation, Self-Development and Self-Reliance of Disabled Person and Their Integration into the Mainstream of Society and for Other Purposes [Magna Carta for Disabled Persons], Republic Act No. 7277, § 2(a) (1992) (as amended).

⁴ Philippine Daily Inquirer, "Registered PWDs in PH now at 2.5M," [inquirer.net](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2072065/registered-pwds-in-ph-now-at-2-5m), June 19, 2025, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2072065/registered-pwds-in-ph-now-at-2-5m> (accessed July 27, 2025).

reflects the success of improved registration efforts, but it also highlights the urgent need for a national support framework to address the growing needs of the PWD community.

This bill seeks to address these gaps through the establishment of a nationally administered Disability Support Allowance Program, anchored on a human rights-based approach to disability. It institutionalizes a monthly financial allowance for eligible PWDs to help cover disability-related costs, beginning with children and adults with significant disabilities and eventually expanding to cover all income-eligible PWDs, including those who are employed but still face additional costs due to their disability.

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



HON. JENNIFER A. LAGBAS
Representative
First District, Misamis Oriental



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DISABILITY SUPPORT ALLOWANCE FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Disability Support Allowance for Persons with Disabilities Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the declared policy of the State to adopt the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land.

It is also vital that the State advances social justice to end poverty in all its forms, particularly the historical deprivation of support required by persons with disabilities (PWDs) for their effective inclusion and full participation in the society.

To attain a just and dynamic social order that will ensure prosperity and free the people from poverty through policies that will provide adequate social services, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all, as well as policies that will promote full employment, the State shall undertake to develop social protection programs such as the granting of disability support allowances to PWDs as recognition of the additional costs associated with the disability.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a) *Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)* - shall refer to those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments that, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Persons who may fall under this definition are, but not limited to, the following: persons with psychosocial disability, persons with autism, persons with down syndrome, persons who are blind, persons with low vision, persons who are hard of hearing, deaf, person with rare diseases,

and all other persons who will be certified under the disability assessment and determination system;

- b) *Disability* - shall refer to an evolving concept that results from the interaction between persons with impairment and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;
- c) *Barriers* - shall refer to anything that hinders PWDs from enjoying or exercising all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civic, or any other field, on an equal basis with others. Barriers in all its forms encompass inaccessible physical environments and transportation; the unavailability of assistive devices and technologies; inaccessible information, both in form and content; non-adapted means of communication; gaps in service delivery, such as unavailability of personal assistance and sign language interpretation service; discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation; attitudes, prejudice and stigma in society; programs, policies and laws infringing the rights of persons with disabilities as recognized under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
- d) *Reasonable Accommodation* - shall refer to necessary and appropriate modifications and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to PWDs the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- e) *Progressive Realization* - shall refer to undertaking measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the CRPD that are immediately applicable according to international law;
- f) *Disability Assessment and Determination* - shall refer to the process by which the disability of an individual is officially recognized for the purpose of eligibility determination to diverse entitlements. It is based on a human rights model of disability, with a focus on functional limitations, support requirements and barriers restricting participation;
- g) *Auxiliary Aids and Services* - shall refer to those referred under Republic Act No. 7227, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities,” as amended;
- h) *Personal Assistance* - shall refer to all forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers, and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public; and
- i) *Registered PWDs* - shall refer to any individuals who are duly registered in their respective localities as PWDs.

SEC. 4. Coverage. — All PWDs, duly certified as such under the disability assessment and determination system that is based on a human rights approach, shall be covered by the provisions of this Act.

In line with the progressive realization principle, the priority will initially be given to children with disabilities and adults with significant disabilities who are facing the highest barriers and disability-related costs. However, the aim is to eventually cover all registered PWDs who have either no income or a low level of income and those who face disability-related costs that negatively affect their adequate standard of living.

SEC. 5. Disability Support Allowance Program. — A Disability Support Allowance Program shall be established under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in consultation with the National Council on Disability Affairs and representative organizations of PWDs. The Disability Support Allowance Program aims to cover disability-related costs of an individual according to what the person decides is an immediate need, such as, but not limited to, transportation allowance, nutrition, maintenance medicines, rehabilitation services, and temporary human assistance, among others.

For working-age adults who are unemployed, it will provide a basic income security and will help cover disability-related costs for finding and keeping work.

The initial amount of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) a month per individual beneficiary is set for the disability support allowance, which will be indexed to inflation to preserve its impact on the standards of living and participation of PWDs.

SEC. 6. *Progressive Rollout.* — The Program shall be implemented in three (3) phases:

- a) Phase 1 - The initial phase of the Disability Support Allowance Program, to be implemented within three (3) years from the year of implementation, shall prioritize provision of stipends to:
 - i) Children with disabilities;
 - ii) Adults with significant disabilities who are facing the highest barriers and disability-related costs; and
 - iii) Persons with disabilities who are recipients of social protection and economic empowerment programs such as but not limited to, the *Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program* (4Ps) and Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens
- b) Phase 2 - The second phase of the Program, to be implemented in the next three (3) years, shall include all registered PWDs in the low-income or no income bracket.
- c) Phase 3 - The third phase of the Program, to be implemented in the next three (3) years, shall include all employed registered PWDs who incur additional disability-related costs.

SEC. 7. *Eligibility.* — Eligibility to the disability support allowance shall be determined using a Human Rights Approach-based Disability Assessment and Determination Scheme, which shall be developed by the DSWD, in consultation with the National Council on Disability Affairs and representatives of organizations of PWDs, parents of children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities, and those who have no capacity to decide for themselves, with the guidance of the Department of Health (DOH) and World Health Organization (WHO) experts on disability inclusion.

SEC. 8. *Disability Data Management System.* — To effectively implement the program, a Disability Data Management System shall be developed and shall be linked to a Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) which aids in the development of poverty-reduction programs from the local to the national level. Linkage to the National ID System and the DOH Persons with Disability Registry, which is mirrored with the PhilHealth Database System, shall also be done to provide real-time disability data and subsidized enrollment to PhilHealth insurance.

SEC. 9. *Policy on Disability Identification Cards.* — The Disability Identification Cards, issued pursuant to Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities,” as amended, along with other relevant laws, administrative issuances, and local ordinances, shall incorporate the information necessary for the granting of the monthly disability support allowance to eligible PWDs.

SEC. 10. *Penal Provisions.* — The penalties shall apply to the following:

- a) Any person who, through fraud or misrepresentation, applies for or aids in the application for benefits under this law without being a qualified PWD entitled thereto shall suffer the following penalties:
 - 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
 - ii) For any subsequent violation, a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP 50,000.00) but not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP 100,000.00).

- b) Any person violating any provision of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations, except violations pertaining to Subsection (a) of this Section, shall be penalized with a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP 50,000.00) but not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP 100,000.00).

SEC. 11. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter. The initial amount of which shall be determined by the DSWD, the National Council of Disability Affairs, and representatives from other major stakeholders, including organizations of PWDs. The allocated budget for the first year of its operation shall gradually increase in view of progressive realization.

SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in consultation with the National Council on Disability Affairs, Department of Interior and Local Government, DOH, Philippine Statistics Authority, organizations of PWDs, and other relevant stakeholders from government agencies and non-government organizations, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. Report to Congress. — The DSWD and National Council on Disability Affairs shall submit an annual report to Congress about the status of the implementation of this Act for purposes of review and recommendation of additional measures necessary for the attainment of the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 14. Separability Clause. — Any portion of or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still subsist and be given effect in its entirety.

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

SEC. 16. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,