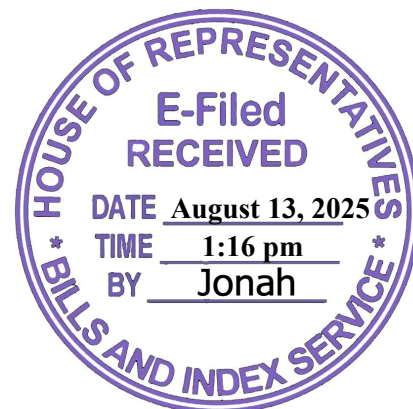




**Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
  
TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session**



**HOUSE BILL NO. 3676**

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**Introduced by Reps. Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora and Laarni Lavin Roque**

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**“AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND FOR THE EMPOWERMENT,  
FULL PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN  
SOCIETY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines mandates the State to promote social justice in all phases of national development and to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. Furthermore, the Philippines is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which obligates State Parties to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind.

Despite existing laws such as Republic Act No. 7277, or the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities”, and its subsequent amendments under R.A. Nos. 9442 and 10754, persons with disabilities (PWDs) continue to face persistent barriers to full and effective participation in society. These include limited access to inclusive services, inadequate social protection mechanisms, and the burden of additional disability-related costs that remain unaddressed by current programs.

Disability is not merely a medical condition but a social phenomenon resulting from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers. A rights-based and needs-based approach to disability necessitates the dismantling of these barriers and the implementation of targeted support systems that affirm the autonomy, agency, and dignity of persons with disabilities.

This proposed measure seeks to establish the Disability Support Fund (DSF)—a dedicated, sustainable mechanism to promote inclusive development by enabling persons with disabilities to live independently, access essential services, and actively contribute to national life. The DSF shall provide direct support to PWDs in the form of an Individual Support Allowance and fund programs led by local government units and organizations of persons with disabilities to build inclusive, community-based services.

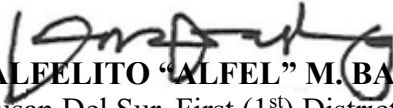
Recognizing that persons with disabilities incur extra costs—such as for mobility, personal assistance, sign language services, assistive devices, healthcare, and transportation—the DSF is designed to alleviate financial burdens and enable fuller participation in education, employment, and community life. **The allowance of Php 2,000 per month**, subject to inflation adjustments, shall provide a foundational layer of income security, especially for those most marginalized such as children with disabilities and adults with moderate to severe impairments.

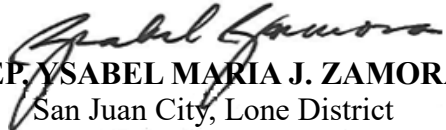
The bill likewise mandates the creation of a Disability and Needs Assessment System (DNAS) to ensure that eligibility criteria are guided by a functional assessment of support needs rather than a purely medical diagnosis. It also strengthens inter-agency collaboration through the leadership of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in administering the Fund, in close partnership with the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), local government units, and civil society.

Moreover, the proposed measure provides for an integrated disability data system and harmonized protocols for issuing PWD identification cards to ensure transparency, real-time verification, and effective targeting. To preserve the integrity of the DSF, it outlines clear penal provisions for fraud and misuse.

Ultimately, this measure is not only an economic investment but a profound moral and social commitment to equity and justice. It ensures that no Filipino is left behind due to disability and affirms that support is not charity—but a matter of rights.

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

  
**REP. ALEELITO “ALFEL” M. BASCUG**  
Agusan Del Sur, First (1<sup>st</sup>) District

  
**REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA**  
San Juan City, Lone District

  
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Bukidnon, Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) District

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**Introduced by Reps. Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora and Laarni Lavin Roque**

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**“AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE UNIVERSAL DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND FOR THE  
EMPOWERMENT, FULL PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES IN SOCIETY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

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

**Section 1. *Short Title*** - This shall be known as the *"Universal Disability Support Fund Act"*

**Sec. 2. *Declaration of State Policy***. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold, protect, and fulfill the rights and dignity of all persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Constitution, the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities (Republic Act No. 7277, as amended), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which the Philippines is a State Party. The State affirms that persons with disabilities are entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and acknowledges the need to take appropriate and effective measures to promote their empowerment, full participation, and inclusion in all aspects of life

The State affirms that disability arises from the interaction between persons with impairments and societal barriers that prevent full participation. In line with its commitment to inclusive development, the State shall ensure that persons with disabilities have equitable access to essential services such as habilitation, rehabilitation, assistive devices, personal support, and community-based programs that enable independent living and meaningful participation in all aspects of life.

To address historical and systemic exclusion, the State shall dismantle physical, attitudinal, and institutional barriers and uphold the principles of equity, accessibility, and non-discrimination in the delivery of public services. Recognizing that persons with disabilities face additional costs due to their impairments and the inaccessibility of services, the State shall implement responsive social protection and economic policies to help reduce these disadvantages.

A rights-based and needs-based approach shall guide all disability support programs, particularly for persons with disabilities and those facing the greatest barriers. For this purpose, the Universal Disability Support Fund (UDSF) shall be established as a mechanism to enhance local and national capacity in providing inclusive, accessible, and sustainable services. This Fund will play a vital role in reducing poverty, promoting self-reliance, and enabling persons with disabilities to actively contribute to national development.

**Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- a. **Barriers** refers to anything that hinders persons with disabilities from enjoying or exercising all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, 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; nonadaptive means of communication; gaps in service delivery such as unavailability of personal assistance and sign language interpretation service; discrimination including denial of reasonable accommodation; attitude, prejudice, and stigma in society; programs, policies, and laws infringing on the rights of persons with disabilities as recognized under the UNCPRD;
- b. **Children with Disabilities** refers to individuals under the age of eighteen (18) who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis;
- c. **Disability** refers to an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions, referring to the negative aspects of interaction between an individual with health condition and contextual factors;
- d. **Disability and Needs Assessment** refers to the process by which 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;

Persons who may fall in this definition are all other persons under the disability assessment and determination system issued by the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) which will be developed under this law and shall also be used in the issuance of the persons with disabilities Identification Cards (ID's);

- e. **Disability-related extra costs** refer to expenses subjected to a person with disability based on disability-specific needs and barriers resulting from inaccessibility of facilities and services. Refers to the direct (e.g., buying assistive device or paying for personal assistance or sign language interpretation service, or extra health care like medicines, more expensive housing or transportation service, etc.) and indirect (e.g., loss productivity because of longer travel time such as experienced by those

who uses wheelchair who need to travel by wheelchair because they cannot use the cheaper public transport, family members who stop working to provide care and support to persons with disabilities, etc.) costs as a result of their disability that drives persons with disabilities in situation of poverty, exposure to vulnerability of exclusion or restriction to participation;

- f. **Habilitation*** refers to a process aimed at helping people gain certain new skills, abilities, and knowledge. Habilitation involves learning skills that will enable a person to function in society. These kinds of programs usually target children born with disabilities;
- g. **Impairment*** is the description of body structures that are diminished, weakened or damaged. Impairments can be divided into primary and secondary:
  - 1. Primary impairments are motor behaviors that are directly related to changes in any system. Examples: muscle tone, postural stability, motor coordination. Primary impairments are any impairments that are present at birth such as heart defects, endocrine diagnoses, visual impairments;
  - 2. Secondary impairments develop over time and frequently as a result of the primary impairments. Examples: Decreased range of motion, force production and endurance;
- h. **Persons with Disabilities*** refers to those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;
- i. **Reasonable Accommodation*** refers to the necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments so as not to impose disproportionate or undue burden, and to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy or exercise on an equal basis, all human rights and fundamental freedoms; and
- j. **Rehabilitation*** refers to re-gaining skills, abilities or knowledge that may have been lost or compromised as a result of acquiring a disability, or due to a change in one's disability or circumstances. Rehabilitation means restoring capacity and ability. This generally applies to an adult who has to re-adapt to society after acquiring a disability.

**Sec. 4. Universal Disability Support Fund (UDSF).** - The UDSF aims to address the gaps in the program implementation currently undertaken at the national and at the local level through programs and projects of the local government and civil society organizations. LGU's and accredited non-government organizations will also be assisted through funding to establish responsive services supporting independent living of persons with disabilities.

The UDSF shall provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to avail of disability related services and have access to government assistance and services for all. The UDSF shall have the following components, such as, but not limited to the following:

- a. LGU's Establishing a Comprehensive Universal Disability Support Services (UDSS) through Provincial, City and Municipal PDAO's;*

- b. Development of affordable and accessible UDSS managed by organizations of persons with disabilities; and
- c. Support Allowance for persons with disabilities, identified by the National Disability Assessment and Determination System (NDADS) which shall be developed by a Technical Working Group led by the Department of Social and Welfare Development (DSWD), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), LGUs, Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Education (DEPED), and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) with diverse representations from organizations of persons with disabilities.

This support shall cover expenses related to disability such as, but not limited to, augmentation to transportation services, food and nutrition, disability support services provided by human interventions, maintenance medicines, rehabilitation services, educational needs, such as but not limited to assistive devices, technology and support equipment, pre-employment and during employment services and access to government assistance and services for all.

The UDSF shall aim to provide a regular stipend to persons with disabilities. The initial amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) a month per individual beneficiary is set for the UDSF, which will be indexed to inflation to preserve its positive impact on the standards of living and participation of people with disabilities. This would contribute, in combination with existing social protection programs and discounts to address the higher cost of transportation, housing, nutrition, hygiene and temporary human assistance requirements, among others. For working age adults out of work, it will provide a basic income security and will help cover disability related costs for finding and keeping work.

The Program shall be implemented in two (2) phases starting with the existing master list of LGUs who already have the ID:

- a. Phase 1 - The initial phase of the UDSF Program, to be implemented in the first three (3) years, shall prioritize provision of stipends to:
  - 1. Children with disabilities; and
  - 2. Adults with moderate and severe disability, who are facing the highest barriers and disability-related costs.
- b. Phase 2 - The second phase of the Program, to be implemented in the next three (3) years, shall include all persons with disabilities.

*Provided, That the abovementioned programs and services on counseling, capability-building of social workers, both local and national, and provision of assistive equipment and devices, such as wheelchairs, and prosthetic devices, among others, may be given in addition to the abovementioned Program to persons with disabilities.*

**Sec. 5. Coverage.** - All persons with disabilities, based on a human rights approach, shall be covered by the provisions of this Act. Priority shall initially be given to children with disabilities and adults with significant disabilities who are facing the highest barriers and disability-related costs.

**Sec. 6. Eligibility.** - In determining eligibility to avail of the UDSF, the Disability and Needs Assessment System (DNAS) shall be considered, with a focus on functional limitations, support requirements, and barriers to participation.

In recognition of the multiple forms of poverty and the extent of disability-related costs required for basic participation, eligibility of persons with disabilities to avail of the UDSF will be compatible, insofar as practicable, with eligibility and benefits from different social protection and economic empowerment programs such as, but not limited to, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, the UDSF acting as a top-up for subsidizing disability-related extra costs. *Provided,* That the DSWD may, in its discretion, adopt additional bases to achieve the objectives of this Act.

**Sec. 7. Role of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.** - The DSWD shall be the administrator of the UDSF. All applications for availing of the UDSF shall be lodged with the DSWD. In partnership with the NCDA, all concerned government agencies, LGUs thru the PDAO, and non-government organizations shall implement programs and services targeting persons with disabilities.

All policies concerning programs and services for persons with disabilities shall be reviewed and enhanced for clarity of operationalization at the local level by the DSWD.

**Sec. 8. Disability and Needs Assessment System.** - To effectively implement social protection measures targeting persons with disabilities, a Disability Data Management System (DDMS) shall be created and managed by the DSWD. This shall be linked to the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), the National ID System, and the NCDA Secretariat's Philippine Registry for Persons with Disabilities (PRPWD), which is mirrored with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) Database System shall also be done to provide real-time disability data and subsidized enrolment to PhilHealth insurance, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

**Sec. 9. Policy on Disability Identification Cards.** - The issuance of Persons with Disabilities Identification Cards 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 UDSF allocation to persons with disabilities.

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

- (a). Persons with Disabilities, or their parent or relative of any degree of consanguinity or affinity, or any third person found to be deliberately committing

any fraudulent act of enrolling persons with disabilities to the PRPWD when such persons are not eligible, shall suffer the following:

1. For the first violation, a fine of not less than Twenty-five thousand pesos (Php 25,000) but not exceeding Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000);
2. For any subsequent violations, a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00); and
3. For a third and fourth violation, a revocation of any license or business permit;

(b). Any person, natural or juridical, violating any provision of this Act and its IRR, 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). If the violator is a corporation, organization or any similar juridical entity, the officials directly involved and responsible shall be liable therefor.

**Sec. 11. *Monitoring.*** - The DSWD is hereby tasked to convene an Inter-Agency Committee to make an annual assessment of the implementation of this Act.

**Sec. 12. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations of the DSWD in the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

**Sec. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD and the NCDA, in consultation with the DILG, DOH, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), National Anti-Poverty Council (NAPC) – Persons with Disabilities Sector, 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. 15. *Supplementary Clause.*** — The provisions of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," as amended by Republic Act No. 10754 and Republic Act No. 9442, have supplementary effect to the provisions of this Act.

**Sec. 16. *Separability Clause.*** — If any portion or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**Sec. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 18. *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,