

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 3722



Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

**AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITY" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability (PWDs), has been the cornerstone legislation ensuring the rights, welfare, and participation of PWDs in Philippine society. However, more than three decades since its enactment, gaps remain in terms of access to assistive devices, employment opportunities, social protection, and government support—particularly for marginalized and indigent PWDs.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, millions of Filipinos live with some form of disability, many of whom face persistent barriers to education, employment, healthcare, and mobility. These challenges are compounded for those in low-income households, where the cost of assistive devices, rehabilitation services, and daily living needs can be prohibitive.

This bill seeks to strengthen the Magna Carta for PWDs by:

1. Expanding Definitions – Recognizing assistive devices and technologies as essential tools for functional independence, and defining assistive technology services to ensure proper provision, maintenance, and training.
2. Enhancing Employment Incentives – Updating mechanisms for private-sector compliance and ensuring that job opportunities reserved for PWDs are meaningfully filled.
3. Providing Additional Benefits – Granting a monthly stipend to indigent PWDs with severe disabilities, free assistive devices and services, express lanes, exemptions from travel-related fees, and lifetime validity for IDs of those with permanent disabilities.
4. Ensuring Proper Implementation – Mandating coordination among relevant agencies for effective delivery of these rights and benefits.

By addressing these gaps, this measure affirms the State's commitment to a truly inclusive society where PWDs are empowered to live with dignity, participate fully in economic and social life, and achieve their fullest potential.

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


HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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

SECTION 1. — Section 4 of Chapter 1, Title One of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities" is hereby amended by inserting new subsections to read as follows:

"Sec. 4. Definition of Terms. — ~~[For purposes of]~~ **AS USED IN** this Act~~[, these terms are defined as follows]:~~

“X X X

"(Q) ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES REFER TO DEVICES THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE AN INDIVIDUAL'S FUNCTIONING AND INDEPENDENCE TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION AND TO ENHANCE OVERALL WELL-BEING BY HELPING TO PREVENT IMPAIRMENTS AND SECONDARY HEALTH CONDITIONS. IT INCLUDES WHEELCHAIRS AND WALKERS, PROSTHESES,

HEARING AIDS, AIDS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, AND SPECIALIZED COMPUTER SOFTWARE, HARDWARE AND PERIPHERALS THAT INCREASE MOBILITY, HEARING, VISION, OR COMMUNICATION CAPACITIES, AMONG OTHERS; AND

"(R) *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE* REFERS TO ANY SERVICE THAT DIRECTLY ASSISTS A PERSON WITH DISABILITY IN THE SELECTION, ACQUISITION, OR USE OF AN ASSISTIVE DEVICE AND TECHNOLOGY."

SECTION 2. Section 8 (a) and (b) of Chapter 1, Title Two of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 8. *Incentives for Employers.* — (a) To encourage the active participation of the private sector in promoting the ~~[welfare]~~ **RIGHTS** of persons **WITH DISABILITIES** and to ensure gainful employment for qualified persons **WITH DISABILITIES**, adequate incentives shall be provided to private entities which employ persons **WITH DISABILITIES**.

"(b) Private entities that employ persons **WITH DISABILITIES** who meet the required skills or qualifications, either as regular employee, apprentice or learner, shall be entitled to an additional deduction, from their gross income, equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total amount paid as salaries and wages to ~~disabled~~ persons **WITH DISABILITIES**, *Provided, [however, That such entities present proof as certified by the Department of Labor and Employment that disabled persons are under their employ: Provided, further, That the disabled employee is accredited with the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Health as to his disability, skills and qualifications.]* **THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), UNDER ITS LABOR LAWS, SHALL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE TO PRIVATE ENTITIES AS PRESCRIBED IN DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 131-B, SERIES OF 2016, OR THE REVISED RULES ON LABOR LAWS COMPLIANCE SYSTEM: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IF THERE IS NO QUALIFIED PERSON WITH DISABILITY APPLICANT AFTER THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE MANDATORY PUBLICATION BY THE EMPLOYER OF ITS JOB VACANCY RESERVED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE EMPLOYER MAY HIRE A NON PERSON WITH DISABILITY APPLICANT FOR SAID RESERVED POSITIONS BY SECURING PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE DOLE.**

“(c) x x x.”

SECTION 3. Section 32 of Chapter 8, Title Two of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby amended by inserting four (4) new subsections to read as follows:

"Sec. 32. Persons with disability shall be entitled to the following:

“XXX

(k) Provision of express lanes for persons with disability in all commercial and government establishments; in the absence thereof, priority shall be given to them.

"(L) A MONTHLY STIPEND AMOUNTING TO FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) TO AUGMENT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE, MEDICAL AND OTHER NEEDS OF MARGINALIZED AND INDIGENT PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES: PROVIDED, THAT PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES WHO ARE RECIPIENTS OF SIMILAR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING MONETARY ASSISTANCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM, OR 4PS, SHALL NO LONGER BE GIVEN THIS STIPEND;

(M) PROVISION OF FREE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES SUCH AS THE EVALUATION OF THE NEEDS AND THE FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CUSTOMARY ENVIRONMENT OR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT, AS WELL AS SELECTING, DESIGNING, FITTING, CUSTOMIZING, ADAPTING, APPLYING, MAINTAINING, REPAIRING, OR

REPLACING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES; TRAINING OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING AND JOB COACHING, AND SUCH OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE: PROVIDED, THAT THE BENEFICIARY IS A MARGINALIZED PERSON WITH DISABILITY AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED;

(N) PROVISION OF FREE ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES INCLUDING TECHNICAL AIDS, PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC DEVICES OR APPLIANCES PARTICULARLY FOR PERSONAL USE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THAT WILL RESTORE THEIR SOCIAL FUNCTIONING AND PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, AND SUCH OTHER DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES APPROPRIATE TO OTHER DISABILITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE BENEFICIARY IS A MARGINALIZED PERSON WITH DISABILITY AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED; AND

"(O) EXEMPTION FROM PASSPORT PROCESSING FEES, AS WELL AS TRAVEL TAXES, TERMINAL FEES, OTHER FEES AND CHARGES LEVIED IN AIRPORTS, PORTS, OR OTHER

**TERMINALS BY THE GOVERNMENT, ITS AGENCIES OR
INSTRUMENTALITIES, OR BY GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND
CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS.**

"The abovementioned privileges are available only to persons with **DISABILITY** who are Filipino citizens upon submission of any of the following as proof of entitlement thereto:

"(I) **THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITY** identification card issued by the city or municipal mayor or the barangay **CHAIR** of the place where the person with disability resides, **OR BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (NCDA); OR**

"(II) The passport of the **PERSONS WITH DISABILITY** with **PERMANENT** disability.

~~"[(III) Transportation discount fare Identification Card (ID) issued by the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP);~~

"PROVIDED THAT, THE IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES SHALL BE FREE OF CHARGE AND SHALL BE VALID DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE CARDHOLDER: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT SUCH PERMANENT DISABILITY IS CERTIFIED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH OFFICE AND VERIFIED BY THE LOCAL SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (LSWDO).

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) SHALL ENSURE THAT THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF THE ID CARD OF PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES IS NOT ABUSED, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE ID HOLDER DIES.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GCG), and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate, not

later than ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for its proper and effective implementation.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* — The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall include in the DSWD's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* — Any law, decrees or issuance, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette, or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,


HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA
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