

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5286



Introduced by **HON. JORGE DANIEL S. BOCOBO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

The 1987 Constitution upholds the right of every Filipino to “a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.” Yet for many of our countrymen with disabilities, that right remains unrealized.

According to the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), there are 2,322,649¹ registered persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Philippines. It is further estimated that one in three² PWDs has a physical disability, while the rest are invisible or not immediately apparent. The NCDA³ further observed that the daily living expenses of persons with disabilities (PWDs) are inherently higher than those of non-PWDs due to additional needs arising from their condition. For example, persons with mobility and/or visual impairments often require more accessible—and therefore more costly—modes of public transportation. Beyond transport, many also face recurring expenses for personal assistance, specialized medical care, rehabilitation or therapy sessions, adaptive equipment, and home or workplace modifications. Parents of children with disabilities likewise incur daily costs for travel to schools or health facilities, in addition to the expenses of maintaining essential care needs. These realities justify the adoption of a higher poverty threshold for PWDs compared to the general population.

Current laws, such as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7277, as amended by R.A. No. 9442 and R.A. No. 10754, the creation of Persons with Disability (PWD) Affairs Offices under R.A. No. 10070, and the Rare Diseases Act under R.A. No. 10747, all provide discounts, tax exemptions, and health coverage. These measures are valuable but limited: they reduce certain expenses without addressing the extra daily costs of disability (transport, personal assistance, adaptive equipment, foregone income) that trap many PWD households in chronic poverty.

¹ as of August 13, 2025, based on NCDA Website

² Philippine Daily Inquirer. (2025, June 22). More inclusivity for PWDs [Editorial]. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from <https://opinion.inquirer.net/184049/more-inclusivity-for-pwds>

³ National Council on Disability Affairs (2016). An Analysis of Government Support and Disability-Related Costs in Eastern Samar and Rizal Provinces. Retrieved from <https://ncda.gov.ph/disability-data-links/>

Recognizing this gap, this proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the grant of a Disability Support Allowance for PWDs. The allowance, initially set at P2,000 per month and indexed to inflation, will help cover these additional expenses. It will prioritize indigent children with disabilities and adults with significant disabilities who face the highest barriers and costs, as determined by the DSWD and NCDA through established targeting mechanisms. In the succeeding years, coverage shall expand to include registered PWDs with no or low income and those with substantial disability-related costs. Ultimately, upon full implementation, the Program shall endeavor to cover all PWDs, consistent with available resources and the objectives of this Act.

This initiative reflects the society's collective responsibility to ensure that no Filipino is excluded from a life of dignity because of disability. Supporting the vulnerable is a shared duty—rooted in justice, compassion, and the recognition of our common humanity. By adopting a national Disability Support Allowance, we affirm that disability should never condemn a Filipino to poverty, exclusion, or despair.

Likewise, this proposed measure reflects both a policy commitment and a personal advocacy. As a father to a child with disability, the undersigned has seen firsthand how disability imposes daily costs that go well beyond medical treatment—costs that strain household resources and demand constant adaptation. In filing this bill, this Representation hopes to help ease these burdens for countless Filipino PWD households, and in so doing, affirm society's commitment to protect and uplift those who need it most.

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


JORGE DANIEL S. BOCOBO

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

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

CHAPTER I
TITLE AND DECLARATION OF POLICY

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

SECTION 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 in order to end poverty in all its forms, particularly the historical deprivation of support required by persons with disabilities 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 persons with disability as a recognition of the additional costs associated with disability.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- a) Persons with Disabilities refer 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, Persons who may fall in this definition are, but not limited to, the following; persons with psychosocial disability, person with autism, person with down syndrome, persons who are blind, person with low vision, person with 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 refers to an evolving concept that results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;
- c) Barriers refer 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; 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; attitude, 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;

- d) Reasonable accommodation refers to 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;
- e) Progressive Realization refers to undertaking measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, with a view of achieving progressively the full realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that are immediately applicable according to International law;
- f) Disability Assessment and Determination 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.

SECTION 4. Coverage. – All persons with disabilities, 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 principle of progressive realization, the Program shall prioritize indigent persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities and adults with significant disabilities who are facing the highest barriers and disability-related costs. Over time, coverage shall be expanded to progressively include all PWDs consistent with available resources and the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 5. Disability Support Allowance Program. – There shall be established a Disability Support Allowance Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in consultation with the National Council on Disability Affairs and a representative organization of persons with disabilities, designed to serve as a social protection measure and support the needs of persons with disabilities in their integration to society.

The Program shall aim to provide regular stipend to persons with disabilities based on the eligibility criteria of the DSWD, with initial priority given to indigent PWDs.

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 people with disabilities. This would contribute, in combination to 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;

- a) Phase 1 – The initial phase of the Disability Support Allowance Program, to be implemented within three (3) years, 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;

Provided, That the beneficiaries under (i) and (ii) are indigent persons with disabilities (PWDs), as determined through the appropriate targeting mechanisms of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), such as those enrolled in social protection and economic empowerment programs, including but not limited to the Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) and the 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 persons with disabilities who have either no income or low level of income and as well as persons with disabilities who face disability-related extra costs which negatively affects adequate standard of living.
- c) Phase 3 – The third phase of the Program, to be implemented after six (6) years from the beginning of the implementation, shall endeavor to progressively cover all persons with disabilities.

SEC. 6. Eligibility. – Eligibility to the disability support allowance will be based solely on disability assessment and determination with a focus on functional limitation, support requirements, and barriers to participation in accordance with Sec. 5 of this Act:

Provided, That the DSWD, in consultation with the NCDA, may adopt additional bases or mechanisms as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 7. Disability Data Management System. – To effectively implement social protection measures targeting persons with disabilities, a Disability Data Management System shall be put up and shall be linked to the Community-Based Management System (CBMS) which aid in the development of poverty-reduction programs from local to 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 enrolment to PhilHealth insurance.

SEC. 8. Policy on Disability Identification Cards. – The issuance of Disability 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 disability support allowance to eligible persons with disabilities.

SEC. 9. 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 person with disability 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. 10. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DSWD and the NCDA, subject to the existing accounting and auditing laws, rules, and regulations. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the affectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in consultation with the National Council on Disability Affairs, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Philippine Statistics Authority, 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. 12. Report to Congress. – The Department of Social Welfare and Development and National Council on Disability Affairs shall annually submit a report to Congress about the status of the implementation of this Act for the purpose of review and recommendation of additional measures necessary for the attainment of the objectives of this Act. The report shall likewise include its operational targets and actual accomplishments for the preceding fiscal year. Such report shall be submitted not later than March 31 of each year and shall be made accessible to the public through publication on the official website of the DSWD.

SEC. 13. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. Non-Impairment Clause. – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SEC. 15. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, ng Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with 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 in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,