

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5498**



Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP and EDVIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to give priority to the needs of the underprivileged, the sick, the elderly, the disabled, women, and children, in pursuit of social justice and equality. In line with this principle, the government is duty-bound to extend protection and support to Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), particularly those belonging to the indigent sector of society.

According to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (2022)¹, there are around 1.44 million registered PWDs in the country as of 2022, with many more likely unregistered due to challenges in reporting and documentation. Of these, a significant portion lives in poverty, facing barriers to education, employment, healthcare, and social participation.

Despite the enactment of Republic Act No. 7277, or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability, and its subsequent amendments, indigent PWDs continue to struggle with the costs of daily living. Many of them are unable to secure stable employment or sufficient livelihood opportunities due to their conditions. Existing government assistance, such as discounts and select welfare programs, remains insufficient to address their everyday needs, leaving them and their families vulnerable to poverty and exclusion.

This bill seeks to address such gaps by providing a monthly subsidy of One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00) to indigent PWDs, to be administered through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA). The subsidy will augment their daily sustenance and help reduce their economic vulnerability.

Institutionalizing this monthly support to indigent PWDs will provide access to a more reliable form of financial assistance. The measure will also strengthen government efforts to establish a comprehensive and updated database of PWDs nationwide, ensuring proper targeting of beneficiaries and effective program monitoring.

The urgency of this bill stems from the pressing need to uplift one of the most marginalized sectors of society. Providing a fixed monthly subsidy is a concrete step in promoting inclusivity and ensuring that PWDs are not left behind in the nation's development agenda.

Once enacted, this measure will significantly improve the quality of life of indigent PWDs, empower their participation in social and economic activities, and sustain the State's commitment to human dignity and equal opportunity. It will also ease the financial burden of families caring for PWD members, encouraging stronger and more resilient households.

In light of these compelling reasons, the passage of this bill is respectfully appreciated.



HON. ERIC G. YAP



HON. EDVIC G. YAP

¹Philippine Statistics Authority. (2022). *Persons with disability in the Philippines*. Philippine Statistics Authority. <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/persons-disability>

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MONTHLY SUBSIDY OF INDIGENT PERSONS WITH DISABILITY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “*Monthly Subsidy for Indigent Persons with Disability Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. The State shall provide priority to the needs of vulnerable sectors such as persons with disabilities. In pursuance of this end, social protection measures such as the grant of monthly subsidy shall be extended to indigent persons with disabilities.

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

- a. *Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)* are those suffering from restriction of different abilities, as a result of a mental, physical or sensory impairment, to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being;
- b. *Indigent Person with Disability* refers to a person with disability with no pension or permanent source of income, or regular support from his/her relatives to meet his/her basic needs.
- c. *Impairment* is any loss, diminution or aberration of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure of function;

- d. *Disability* refers to (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more psychological, physiological or anatomical function of an individual or activities of such individual; (2) a record of such an impairment; or (3) being regarded as having such an impairment;
- e. *Handicap* refers to a disadvantage for a given individual resulting from an impairment or a disability, that limits or prevents the functions or activity, that is considered normal given the age and sex of the individual

SEC. 4. *Coverage*. — All indigent PWDs, as verified and certified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), shall be covered by the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Subsidy for Indigent PWDs*. — The eligible PWD shall be entitled to a monthly subsidy from the DSWD amounting to One thousand pesos (Php1,000.00) to augment his/her daily subsistence, subject to existing government auditing rules and regulations: Provided, that the monthly subsidy may be waived if the PWD is capable of supporting his/her own self or his/her family as certified by the DSWD Field Office concerned.

SEC. 6. *Database of PWDs*. — To implement effectively, a database of all PWDs should be created by the NCDA and DSWD. Renewed efforts must be made to collect comprehensive, accurate and updated information that can be disaggregated according to a wide range of variables as a basis for effective planning and implementation services, and monitoring and evaluation. The creation and management of this database shall adhere strictly to the standards set forth in Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the "Data Privacy Act of 2012."

SEC. 7. *Policy on PWD Identification Cards*. — The issuance of PWD Identification Cards pursuant to Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," as amended, along with other relevant administrative issuances and local ordinances, shall incorporate the information necessary for the granting of the monthly subsidy to eligible PWDs. The issuance of an authentic PWD Identification Card is a pre-requisite to qualify as a beneficiary under this Act.

SEC. 8. *Penal Provisions*. — The penalties shall apply to the following:

- a. Any PWD, or his/her parent or his/her relative of any degree of consanguinity or affinity, or any third person found to be deliberately committing any fraudulent act of enrolling a PWD to the program when said person is not indigent shall suffer the following:
 - 1. For the first violation, a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) but not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00); and

2. For any subsequent violation, a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) but not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php200,000.00).
- 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 One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) but not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php200,000.00). If the violator is a corporation, organization or any similar juridical entity, the officials directly involved and responsible shall be primarily liable therefor.

SEC. 9. *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. An initial amount of Two Billion Pesos (Php2,000,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the first year of its operation.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in consultation with the NCDA, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), and other relevant government agencies and non-government organizations, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Report to Congress.* — The DSWD and NCDA 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.

SEC. 12. *Suppletory Clause.* — The provisions of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended by Republic Act No. 10754 and Republic Act No. 9442, have suppletory effect to the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,