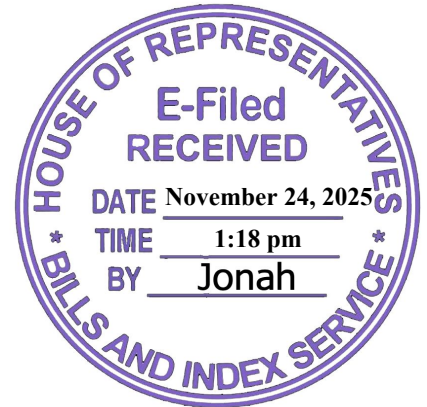


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6306



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY,” AS
AMENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF IDENTIFICATION
CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITY**

Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability (PWD), guarantees the rights and privileges of PWDs in the Philippines and mandates the State to provide support for their rehabilitation, self-development, and self-reliance. Section 32 of the law, as amended, entitles PWDs to a range of benefits upon presentation of an identification card issued by the local government.

Under existing rules, PWD ID Cards have a fixed validity period, typically five (5) years.¹ After which, cardholders must renew their IDs by resubmitting documentation and, in some cases, paying a minimal renewal fee. While reasonable for temporary or progressive conditions, this requirement is unduly burdensome for persons with permanent disabilities, who must nonetheless undergo repetitive medical certification and bureaucratic procedures despite their condition being lifelong.

The renewal process, while standardized, imposes both financial and logistical strain to our PWDs. Many of them face limited mobility or live in far-flung areas with limited access to issuing offices. Requiring them to appear in person every few years to renew an ID that certifies an unchanging medical condition contradicts the spirit of accessibility and inclusion promoted by the Magna Carta. The burden also disproportionately affects indigent PWDs, who constitute the majority of the sector and often rely on social welfare benefits.

¹ National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) Administrative Order No. 001, s. 2021

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), there are an estimated 1.44 million registered PWDs nationwide as of 2023, representing roughly 1.3% of the total population, significantly below the World Health Organization's global estimate of around 16%. This discrepancy suggests continuing barriers in registration and access.² Simplifying ID validity for those with permanent disabilities will thus encourage more registrations and ensure continuous access to benefits without undue bureaucratic hindrance.

This measure seeks to eliminate the redundant renewal procedures for those whose disability has been medically determined as permanent, while maintaining safeguards to ensure authenticity and accountability. The cardholder may still apply for replacement in case of loss or damage, but not due to expiration.

Streamlining PWD ID management will likewise reduce administrative workload at the local government level. City and municipal social welfare offices process thousands of renewals annually. For cases of permanent disability, the renewal process serves no functional purpose other than to reissue an identical credential. Granting lifetime validity to PWD IDs for individuals with verified permanent disabilities will allow local offices to reallocate time and resources toward identifying and registering unlisted PWDs or updating temporary or progressive disability cases rather than clerical renewal work.

The PWD ID is the gateway to the privileges guaranteed under the Magna Carta, including the 20% discount, VAT exemption, educational and employment support, and accessibility rights. When an ID expires, access to these benefits may be temporarily interrupted. For persons with permanent disabilities, such interruptions serve no policy purpose and only add distress and inconvenience.

For these reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

² UNICEF, Policy Brief: Improving Disability Registration in the Philippines, June 2024

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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 the Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known
as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disability” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 4. Definition of Terms: For purposes of this Act, these terms are
defined as follows:

x x x

(c) *Disability* shall mean (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially
limits one or more psychological, physiological, or anatomical functions of an
individual or activities of such individual; (2) a record of such an impairment; or
(3) being regarded as having such an impairment;

(c-1) *Permanent disability* refers to a physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory
impairment that (1) substantially limits one or more major bodily functions or
activities of an individual; and (2) is medically determined to be irreversible,
non-transitory, or otherwise expected to last for the lifetime of the individual, as
certified by a licensed physician of the municipal or city health office and verified
by the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO). x x x”

SECTION 2. Section 32 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 32. Persons with disability shall be entitled to the following:

x x x

The abovementioned privileges are available only to persons with disability who are Filipino citizens upon submission of any of the following as proof of his/her entitlement thereto:

(I) An identification card issued by the city or municipal mayor or the barangay captain of the place where the persons with disability resides; **OR**

(II) The passport of the persons with disability concerned; ~~or~~

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

PROVIDED, THAT IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITY 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).

PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT IN CASE OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, THE CARDHOLDER MAY RENEW HIS/HER IDENTIFICATION CARD.”

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from approval of this Act, the NCDA, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and other relevant government agencies, shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary in the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,