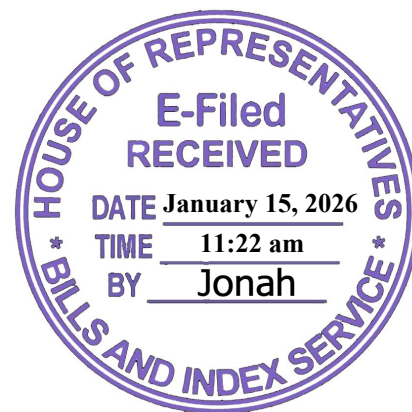


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7125



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 344, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT
TO ENHANCE THE MOBILITY OF DISABLED PERSONS BY REQUIRING
CERTAIN BUILDINGS, INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHMENTS AND PUBLIC
UTILITIES TO INSTALL FACILITIES AND OTHER DEVICES”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1982, Batas Pambansa (BP) Blg. 344 was enacted to enhance the accessibility of buildings, institutions, establishments, and public utilities to persons with disabilities (PWDs), with mobility impairments. More than four (4) decades since BP 344’s passage, physical or mobile inaccessibility persists in various establishments across the country. Thus, there is a need to ensure that the implementation of BP 344 remains not just in full force and effect, but also timely and relevant. Ensuring the proper implementation of the law entails ensuring that its provisions are regularly updated to reflect present contexts and realities.

In particular, this bill seeks to amend the penal provisions of BP 344 based on the latest implementing rules and regulations¹ jointly promulgated by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Transportation (DoTr), in coordination with the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA). The latest implementing rules and regulations, created in consultation with relevant stakeholders, reflect the current lived realities of persons with disabilities (PWDs) by increasing the penal provisions from a fine of P2,000 to P5,000 and imprisonment of one month to one year, or both, as stated in BP 344, to a fine of P50,000 to P100,000 and

¹ Implementing Rules and Regulations as Amended of Batas Pambansa Bilang 344, or “An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments, and Other Public Utilities to Install Facilities and Other Devices.” Retrieved from <https://ncda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/amended-IRR-BP-344-Official-Gazette.pdf>.

imprisonment of six months to two years, or both, in order to truly give weight to the mandates and prohibitions provided for by BP 344.

However, at present, confusion arises when BP 344 is invoked because of the differences in the penal provisions stated in the law and in the implementing rules and regulations. Thus, several PWD groups have been pushing to amend BP 344 by increasing its penal provisions based on the current implementing rules and regulations that resulted from consultations with PWD groups. This bill directly responds to this clamor from the PWD sector.

Towards a truly just and accessible Philippines through timely and relevant legislation, early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



LEILA M. DE LIMA

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7125**

Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 344, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT
TO ENHANCE THE MOBILITY OF DISABLED PERSONS BY REQUIRING
CERTAIN BUILDINGS, INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHMENTS AND PUBLIC
UTILITIES TO INSTALL FACILITIES AND OTHER DEVICES”

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

1 SECTION 1. *Section 4 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 344, or “An Act to Enhance the*
2 *Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions,*
3 *Establishments and Public Utilities to Install Facilities and Other Devices,” is hereby*
4 *amended to read as follows:*

5
6 “SECTION 4. Any person violating any provision of this Act or of the rules and
7 regulations promulgated hereunder shall, upon conviction by a court of
8 competent jurisdiction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than [~~one~~
9 ~~month~~] **SIX (6) MONTHS** but not more than [~~one year~~] **TWO (2) YEARS** or a
10 fine of [~~P2,000 to P5,000~~] **NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS**
11 **(P50,000) BUT NOT EXCEEDING ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS**
12 **(P100,000)**, or both, at the discretion of the court: *Provided, That in the case of*
13 *corporations, partnerships, cooperatives or associations, the president,*
14 *manager or administrator, or the person who has charge of the construction,*
15 *repair or renovation of the buildings, space or utilities shall be criminally*
16 *responsible for any violation of this Act and/or rules and regulations*
17 *promulgated pursuant thereto.”*

18
19 SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
20 presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations, or parts thereof

1 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
2 accordingly.

3
4 SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the
6 Philippines.

Approved,