

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 7290

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT

**GRANTING ADDITIONAL PRIVILEGES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE “MAGNA CARTA OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY,” AS AMENDED, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that “the Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good.”

According to data collected by the National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA), there are over 2.5 million Persons with Disability (PWD) registered by mid-2025. This is a 35% increase from over 1.8 million in June 2024.¹

The increase in the number of registered PWDs highlights the need to augment the privileges given to persons with disability. Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as Magna Carta for Persons with Disability, was approved in 1992 and continues to be implemented by the government. It was amended by Republic Act No. 9442 and Republic Act No. 10754 to expand the benefits and privileges of persons with disability.

¹ Registered PWDs in PH now at 2.5 M. From <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2072065/registered-pwds-in-ph-now-at-2-5m>.

Over the years, improved monitoring mechanisms and more accessible health services have enabled local governments to identify other needs of this sector, which inevitably require additional funding and more inclusive programs.

Providing better employment opportunities to PWDs in both the government and private sectors will help them participate in nation-building and enhance their independence. With proper facilities and assistive devices, they will be able to deliver quality services that would otherwise be challenging..

Hence, this legislation seeks to provide additional privileges to PWD amending for the purpose R.A No. 7277 and appropriating funds therefor to better address their needs.

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


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Definition of Terms.*** – Section 4. Definition of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended,
2 is hereby amended by inserting new paragraphs to be lettered accordingly to read as follows:

3
4
5 **“Section 4. *Definition of Terms* – xxx**

6
7
8 X X X

9
10 (q) *Assistive devices and technologies* – refer to any devices such as
11 wheelchairs and walkers, prosthesis, hearing aids, aids for the visually impaired and
12 specialized computer software, hardware and peripherals that increase mobility,

1 *hearing, vision, or communication capacities, among others, designed to improve an*
2 *individual's functioning and independence.*

3
4 *(r) Assistive technology service – refers any professional help that directly*
5 *assist a person with disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive*
6 *device and technology. It includes needs assessment, device fitting, training for users*
7 *and families.”*
8

9 **SEC 2. Equal Opportunity for Employment.** – Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended,
10 is hereby further amended to read as follows:
11

12 *Section 5. Equal Opportunity for Employment. – No person with disability*
13 *(PWD) shall be denied access to opportunities suitable for employment. A qualified*
14 *PWD shall be subject to the same terms and conditions of employment and the same*
15 *compensation, privileges, benefit, incentives or allowance as a qualified able-bodied*
16 *person.*
17

18 *At least three percent (3%) of positions in all government agencies, offices,*
19 *or corporations, including government-owned or controlled corporations, shall be*
20 *reserved for qualified persons with disability. Provided, That private corporations*
21 *with at least one hundred (100) employees shall reserve at least two percent (2%) of*
22 *all positions for qualified PWD who meet the required skills and qualifications;”*
23

24 **SEC. 3. Incentives for Employers.** – Section 8 (a) and (b) of Chapter 1, Title Two of Republic
25 Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:
26

27 “SEC. 8. Incentives for Employers –
28

29 *(a) To encourage the active participation of the private sector in promoting the welfare of*
30 *persons with disability (PWD) and to ensure gainful employment for qualified PWD,*
31 *adequate incentives shall be provided to private entities which employ PWD.*
32

33 *(b) Private entities that employ PWD equivalent to at least 2% of their total number of*
34 *employees, either as a regular employee, apprentice or learner, shall be entitled to an*
35 *additional deduction, from their gross income, equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%)*
36 *of the total amount paid as salaries and wages to PWD: Provided, however, That such*
37 *entities shall submit proof, as certified by the Department of Labor and Employment*
38 *(DOLE) that PWDs are under their employ; Provided, further, That the PWD is*
39 *accredited with the DOLE and Department of Health as to his disability, skills and*
40 *qualifications.*

1
2 *Private entities that employ persons with disability equivalent to at least seventy*
3 *(70%) of their total number of employees shall be entitled to an additional deduction*
4 *from gross income equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of the total amount paid as*
5 *salaries and wages to PWD; subject to the same certification and documentation*
6 *requirements under this Section.*
7

8 **SEC. 4. Additional Privileges.** – Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby
9 further amended by inserting the additional paragraphs, to be lettered accordingly, to read as
10 follows:
11

12 ***“SEC. 32. Persons with disability shall be entitled to: xxx***
13

14 ***(l) Provision of free assistive technology services that directly assist a person***
15 ***with disability in the selection, acquisition, fitting, training or use of an assistive***
16 ***device and technology, including needs assessment, device fitting, and training.***
17 ***Provided, that the PWD is certified by the Local Health Office of the concerned LGU;***
18

19 ***(m) Provision of free assistive device and technologies such as wheelchairs***
20 ***and walkers, prostheses, hearing aids, aids for the visually impaired and specialized***
21 ***computer software, hardware and peripherals that increase mobility, hearing, vision,***
22 ***or communication capacities;***
23

24 ***(n) Exemptions from travel taxes, terminal fees, and other charges levied in***
25 ***airports and ports or other terminals by the government, its agencies and***
26 ***instrumentalities, and government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs).***
27

28 X X X
29

30 *The above-mentioned privileges are available only to persons with disabilities who*
31 *are Filipino citizens upon submission of any of the following proof of his /her entitlement*
32 *thereto:*
33

34 X X X
35

36 ***(iii) Transportation discount fare Identification Card (ID) issued by the National***
37 ***Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP), is hereby amended to read as***
38 ***follows:***
39
40

1 *(iii) Transportation discount fare Identification Card (ID) issued by the National*
2 *Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) (formerly NCWDP), or the Persons with*
3 *Disability Identification Card issued by the appropriate local government unit pursuant*
4 *to NCDA guidelines.”*
5

6 *The Identification Card issued to persons with disability is free of charge and*
7 *shall be valid during the lifetime of the cardholder; Provided, That such disability and,*
8 *where applicable, permanent disability status is certified by the Municipal or City*
9 *Health Office and verified by the Local Social Welfare Office in accordance with the*
10 *National Council on Disability Affairs.*
11

12 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Social Welfare and
13 Development, in consultation with the Department of Health, Department of Labor and
14 Employment, National Council on Disability Affairs, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and other
15 relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
16 implementation of this Act within nine (90) days from its effectivity.
17

18 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall
19 be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums
20 as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
21 General Appropriations Act.
22

23 **SEC 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid,
24 the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
25

26 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof,
27 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
28

29 **SEC 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
30 Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
31

32 Approved,