



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7324

Introduced by Representative John Geesnell "Baba" Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for a monthly social pension in the minimum amount of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) for indigent persons with disability.

Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, or the "*Magna Carta for Disabled Persons*," affirms the State's commitment to promote the rights and welfare of persons with disability (PWDs). Despite these guarantees, many indigent PWDs continue to face severe economic and social disadvantages due to limited employment opportunities, inadequate access to health care, and the absence of sustainable income support. Their condition is further aggravated by the high cost of living, medical expenses, and the daily challenges of living with a disability.

This proposed measure seeks to provide a monthly social pension to indigent PWDs to augment their daily subsistence, medical, and other essential needs. It recognizes that indigent PWDs, particularly those without permanent sources of income or regular family support, are among the most vulnerable sectors of society. By extending financial assistance, the State fulfills its constitutional mandate to ensure social justice and protection for marginalized groups.

The bill establishes clear eligibility requirements to ensure that only indigent PWDs benefit from the program. It mandates registration with the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) and inclusion in the national PWD registry, which will be consolidated and maintained by the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and local government units (LGUs). This

database will serve as the authoritative reference for program targeting, monitoring, and policy planning, thereby preventing duplication and ensuring transparency.

To safeguard the value of the pension, the measure requires the DSWD, in consultation with the NCDA and other stakeholders, to review and adjust the amount every two years, taking into account the consumer price index and relevant economic indicators published by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). This ensures that the pension remains responsive to inflation and the evolving needs of indigent PWDs.

The bill also provides flexible modes of disbursement—whether through direct cash payout, electronic transfer, or accredited service providers—ensuring efficiency and accessibility.

Finally, the measure also includes safeguards for program integrity. The pension shall be suspended or terminated upon confirmation that the beneficiary is receiving another government financial benefit, upon death, or in cases of fraudulent misrepresentation or material non-disclosure discovered through verification or audit.

In sum, this legislative proposal is a concrete step toward strengthening the social protection framework for indigent PWDs. It acknowledges their inherent dignity, addresses their pressing economic needs, and affirms the State's responsibility to uphold their rights and welfare. The enactment of this measure will not only alleviate poverty among indigent PWDs but also promote their inclusion, equity, and participation in nation-building.

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


JOHN GEESNELL “Baba” YAP



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION IN THE MINIMUM
AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED PESOS FOR INDIGENT PERSONS
WITH DISABILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS,” AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 32 of Chapter 8, Title Two of Republic Act
(RA) No.7277, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 32. Persons with disability shall be entitled
to the following:

(a) “xxx

“(L) A MONTHLY STIPEND IN THE AMOUNT
OF NO LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED PESOS
(P500.00) TO AUGMENT THE DAILY

SUBSISTENCE, MEDICAL, AND OTHER NEEDS OF INDIGENT PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs); *PROVIDED*, THAT ANY PWD WHO IS A CURRENT BENEFICIARY OF A REGULAR, RECURRING CASH BENEFIT OR SOCIAL PENSION PROVIDED BY A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY, OR A LOCALLY FUNDED RECURRING CASH PROGRAM, INCLUDING MONETARY ASSISTANCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AND BENEFICIARIES UNDER PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE DSWD OR OTHER NATIONAL PENSION SCHEMES, ARE NO LONGER QUALIFIED TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT.”

SEC. 2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall, in consultation with the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), and other stakeholders, review and, when necessary, adjust the amount of the social pension every two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, taking into

account the present consumer price index as published by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and relevant economic indicators, as reported and published by pertinent government agencies and authorities.

SEC. 3. The social pension provided under this Act shall only be granted to PWDs who are duly registered with the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) and are listed in the national PWD registry, and who do not have a permanent source of income, no regular support from family members or relatives, or whose income falls below the poverty threshold as determined by the PSA.

For this purpose, the NCDA shall, in coordination with the DSWD and the LGUs, create, maintain, and secure a national database for indigent PWDs. The database shall be a consolidated registry containing all target beneficiaries, based on a national household and income inventory. The national PWD database shall serve as the authoritative database for eligibility verification, program targeting, monitoring, and policy-planning. The database shall be updated and validated annually.

SEC. 4. The social pension may be released on a monthly, quarterly or semi-annual basis as may be deemed appropriate by the DSWD. The release shall be either through direct cash payout, direct remittance through the engagement of a service provider duly accredited by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, electronic transfer, or other modes of disbursement, whichever is more practical and

acceptable to the beneficiary, ensuring its release in the most expeditious and efficient manner.

SEC. 5. Any transaction or service fee arising from the engagement of a service provider, electronic transfer, or other modes of disbursement with service fees for the release of the social pension to PWDs shall not be charged against the PWD.

SEC. 6. The social pension provided under this Act shall be suspended or terminated upon:

- (a) Confirmation that the beneficiary is receiving another government financial benefit;
- (b) Death of the beneficiary; or
- (c) Fraudulent misrepresentation or material non-disclosure discovered through verification or audit.

SEC. 7. Consistent with the provisions of RA 10173 or the *Data Privacy Act of 2012*, the NCDA shall implement data protection, access controls, and audit logs to ensure that personal data shall be used only for program administration, monitoring, and policy development.

SEC. 8. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of his Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and Management and the National Council on Disability Affairs,

formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the parts of provisions not affected shall remain in full force or effect.

SEC. 11. All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly

SEC. 12. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,