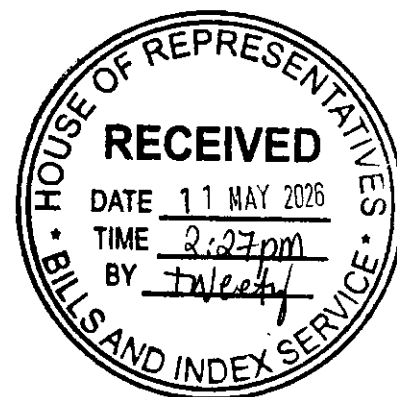




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9179



Introduced by Representative Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability, was enacted to safeguard the rights and welfare of persons with disability (PWDs). While the law remains foundational, certain provisions no longer reflect contemporary standards in disability rights and administration, resulting in inconsistent implementation and unnecessary burdens on beneficiaries.

This proposed measure addresses those gaps through targeted but consequential reforms.

This measure introduces clear statutory classifications of disability such as: *temporary, long-term, and permanent disability*. This classification is supported by various international conventions advocating the rights of persons with disability. At present, the law does not explicitly distinguish between varying durations and prognoses of disability. By defining these categories based on prognosis on functional limitation, the measure provides a uniform legal framework that ensures proportionality of privileges and minimizes administrative ambiguity, and will serve as basis and granting additional privileges in subsequent measures.

Of urgency is the rationalization of the validity of identification cards issued to PWDs. Under the current system, even individuals with permanent disabilities are required to periodically renew their identification cards, creating unnecessary burdens and inefficiencies. This measure corrects that imbalance by granting lifetime validity to identification cards issued to persons with permanent disability, while maintaining reasonable renewal periods for temporary and long-term disabilities.

Taken together, these reforms aim to harmonize the local laws with international standards and reduce bureaucratic burdens on both beneficiaries and

government agencies. More importantly, they reinforce the State's commitment to uphold the dignity, autonomy, and full participation of persons with disability in society.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Talavera', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MA. CRISTINA TALAVERA LOPEZ
Representative, ALONA Party List



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HOUSE BILL NO. 9179

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**AN ACT DEFINING TEMPORARY, LONG-TERM, AND PERMANENT DISABILITY
UNDER THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY, AND
PROVIDING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR PERSONS
WITH PERMANENT DISABILITY, FURTHER AMENDING SECTIONS 4 AND 32
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED**

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, or the "*Magna Carta for Persons with Disability*" is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

a) [*Disabled persons*] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITY** 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, **WHETHER TEMPORARY, LONG-TERM, OR PERMANENT**;

X X X

c) *Disability* **OR FUNCTIONAL LIMITATION** shall mean
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;

PROVIDED, THAT IF THE DISABILITY OR FUNCTIONAL LIMITATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO PERSIST FOR MORE THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS, THE DISABILITY IS CONSIDERED TEMPORARY;

PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IF THE DISABILITY OR FUNCTIONAL LIMITATION IS EXPECTED TO PERSIST FOR MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, THE SAME SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS LONG-TERM DISABILITY;

PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT IF THE DISABILITY OR FUNCTIONAL LIMITATION IS EXPECTED TO BE LIFELONG OR WITHOUT REASONABLE PROSPECT OF SUBSTANTIAL FUNCTIONAL RECOVERY, THE DISABILITY IS PERMANENT.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE DEPARMTENT OF HEALTH (DOH) SHALL DEVELOP AND PROMULGATE A STANDARDIZED DISABILITY ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL BASED ON INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FRAMEWORKS AS TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF DISABILITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

X X X

SECTION 2. Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 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] **LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT** 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 issued by the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP).]

PROVIDED, THAT INDIVIDUALS INITIALLY ASSESSED AS PERSONS WITH TEMPORARY DISABILITY UNDER SECTION 4(C) OF THIS ACT SHALL UNDERGO AN ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO THE ONE (1) YEAR EXPIRATION OF THEIR IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR POSSIBILITY OF CLASSIFYING THEM AS PERSONS WITH LONG-TERM DISABILITY;

PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH LONG-TERM DISABILITY AS CLASSIFIED UNDER SECTION 4(C) OF THIS ACT SHALL BE RENEWABLE EVERY THREE (3) YEARS AT A MINIMAL FEE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT A MANDATORY ASSESSMENT SHALL BE CONDUCTED EVERY THREE (3) YEARS FOR PURPOSES OF SUCH RENEWAL; AND

PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITY AS CLASSIFIED UNDER SECTION 4(C) OF THIS ACT SHALL BE VALID DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE CARDHOLDER.

X X X

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations pertinent to the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, or issuances, or any part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,