

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9187



Introduced by Representatives Alfelito “Alfel” Bascug, Leila M. de Lima, Kathryn Joyce F. Gorriceta, MD, Ann Matibag, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Jane T. Castro, Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS, Dale B. Corvera, Edwin L. Cruzado, M.D., Giselle Mary L. Maceda, Ricardo S. Cruz Jr., Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Arlyn P. Ayon, Ivan Howard A. Guintu, and Laarni Lavin Roque

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AFFAIRS OFFICES (PDAOs) IN ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 40 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10070, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN EVERY PROVINCE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10070, otherwise known as the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) Law, amended Section 40 of Republic Act No. 7277 and mandated the establishment of Persons with Disability Affairs Offices (PDAOs) in every province, city, and municipality to institutionalize mechanisms for the implementation of programs and services for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The law also allowed 4th to 6th class municipalities to designate a focal person in lieu of a PDAO due to budget constraints.¹

However, even after nearly sixteen (16) years since RA 10070 was enacted on April 6, 2010, compliance remains critically low. According to recent data from the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), only about 400–500 out of 1,715 LGUs nationwide have established operational PDAOs, leaving hundreds of municipalities without dedicated offices to register and serve PWDs.²

Most of the local government units (LGUs) that have complied with the PDAO requirement are located in urbanized areas, while many far-flung municipalities remain

¹ DSWD’s NCDA sees as urgent concern small number of LGU offices for persons with disability; only 500 existing PDAOs out of 1,715 LGUs, Feb. 20, 2026. DSWD website.

² Ibid

non-compliant, posing challenges in monitoring and implementing disability-related laws and services at the local level.³

Based on NCDA data and public figures available on the council's official portal, roughly 2.58–2.60 million persons with disabilities are registered and issued persons with disabilities identification cards across provinces, cities, and municipalities. These registrants are reflected in the Philippine Registry for Persons with Disabilities (PRPWD), which serves as the central database of persons with disability records and is accessible via NCDA and DOH platforms.⁴

The limited establishment of PDAOs has had tangible implications:

- Lack of uniform and standardized local database systems linked to the PRPWD, resulting in incomplete records, weak planning, and inadequate evidence-based policymaking;
- Weak information dissemination of disability rights, benefits, and services;
- Inconsistent implementation of disability benefits and support programs under existing laws; and
- Reduced access to essential services and opportunities for persons with disabilities, especially in resource-constrained and rural LGUs.

Additionally, research suggests that persons with disabilities in the Philippines face disparities in employment outcomes, where disability correlates with significantly lower labor force participation and employment ratios compared with persons without disabilities.

One of the root causes of non-compliance with RA 10070 has been the absence of a clearly defined funding mechanism in the law. Because the law left funding decisions to the discretion of LGUs without requiring dedicated budget allocations, many local governments cite insufficient funds or competing priorities as justification for the failure to establish PDAOs.

Recognizing persistent implementation gaps in local disability governance, similar reform measures were filed in the 19th Congress to strengthen the mandate, structure, functions, and funding of PDAOs - including House Bill No. 4606 by Rep. Eduardo Roa Rama Jr., HB No. 5111 by Rep. PM Vargas, and HB No. 8305 by Reps. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre - reflecting sustained legislative interest in remedying institutional weaknesses affecting the disability sector.

Given the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia fiscal autonomy ruling and increasing emphasis on local governance performance, the need to mandate the establishment of PDAOs in all LGUs, assign a clear and dedicated budget allocation, and strengthen institutional frameworks for persons with disabilities is both timely and essential.

This measure therefore proposes to amend RA 10070 to:

³ NCDA raises concern over low number of PWD offices in local governments. Feb. 21, 2026, Manila Bulletin.

⁴ DSWD's NCDA sees as urgent concern small number of LGU offices for persons with disability; only 500 existing PDAOs out of 1,715 LGUs, Feb. 20, 2026. DSWD website.

1. Ensure the mandatory creation and continuous operation of PDAOs in every LGU (province, city, and municipality) without exemptions;
2. Provide a dedicated budget line-item for PDAO establishment and operations to eliminate discretionary funding delays;
3. Strengthen the roles and functions of PDAOs in coordination, monitoring, data management, and capacity building;
4. Require the establishment and maintenance of uniform and standardized local disability databases linked to the national PRPWD system;
5. Institutionalize mechanisms for data management, information dissemination, awareness campaigns, and program implementation; and
6. Refine and harmonize institutional responsibilities for disability services to ensure alignment between national and local mechanisms.

After almost Sixteen (16) years since RA 10070's enactment, the Philippines must fully realize its legislative intent to operationalize PDAOs nationwide, strengthen disability rights implementation, and ensure that persons with disabilities are meaningfully included in governance and service delivery at all levels. Strengthening and mandating the establishment of PDAOs in all LGUs is not merely an administrative reform - it is a necessary step toward fulfilling the rights guaranteed under disability laws and ensuring that no person with disability is left behind.

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


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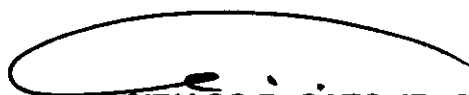

REP. LEILA DE LIMA
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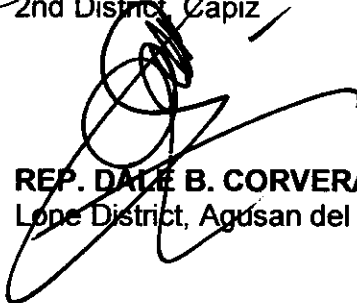

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REP. ANN MATIBAG
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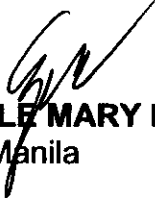

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REP. EDWIN L. CRUZADO, MD
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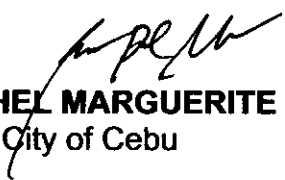
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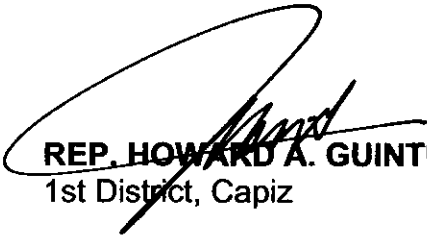
REP. MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY
United Senior Citizens Party List



REP. ARLYN P. AYON
SWERTE Party List



REP. RACHEL MARGUERITE B. DEL MAR
1st District, City of Cebu



REP. HOWARD A. GUINTU
1st District, Capiz



REP. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4th District, Bukidnon

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory Persons
2 with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) in all Local Government Units (LGUs) Act”.

3 **SEC. 2.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 10070, amending Section 40 of Republic
4 Act No. 7277, is hereby further amended to read as follows and shall renumber the
5 subsections therein accordingly:

6 Sec. 40. of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby further amended to
7 read as follows **AND SHALL RENUMBER THE SUBSECTIONS THEREIN**
8 **ACCORDINGLY:**

9 Sec. 40. Role of National Agencies and Local Government Units.

10 (a) Local government units shall promote **AND INCLUDE IN THEIR LOCAL**
11 **PRIORITY PROGRAMS** the establishment of [organizations] **A PERSONS**
12 **WITH DISABILITY AFFAIRS OFFICE (PDAO)** [of persons with disabilities
13 (PWDs)] in their respective territorial jurisdictions. National agencies and

1 local government units may enter into joint ventures with **PDAOs AND**
2 **OTHER** organizations or associations of [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH**
3 **DISABILITIES** to explore livelihood opportunities and other undertakings
4 that shall enhance the **OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE**, health, physical
5 fitness, **COGNITIVE, MENTAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL**, economic, and social
6 well-being of [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**.

7 (b) Local government units shall organize and establish the following:

8 (1) **MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF** Persons with
9 Disability Affairs Office (PDAO)

10 [PDAO shall be created in every province, city and municipality.] **ALL**
11 **PROVINCES, CITIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES ARE MANDATED TO**
12 **ESTABLISH THEIR RESPECTIVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITY**
13 **AFFAIRS OFFICE (PDAO) DIRECTLY UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE**
14 **LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CITY OR**
15 **MUNICIPAL MAYOR, RESPECTIVELY).** The local chief executive shall
16 appoint a [PWD affairs officer] **PDAO HEAD, SUBJECT TO THE**
17 **CONFIRMATION BY THE SANGGUNIAN CONCERNED, AND IN**
18 **COMPLIANCE WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES ON THE**
19 **APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS IN LGUs. THE PDAO**
20 **HEAD [who] shall manage and oversee the EFFICIENT operations of**
21 **the office, pursuant to its mandate under this Act. Priority shall be given**
22 **to qualified [PWDs] PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES to head and man**
23 **the said office in carrying out the following functions:**

24 (i) Formulate and implement policies, plans and programs
25 **INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LIVELIHOOD,**
26 **REHABILITATION, AND SELF-RELIANCE PROGRAMS**
27 **for the EMPOWERMENT AND promotion of the RIGHTS**
28 **AND welfare of [PWDs] PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**
29 **in coordination with concerned national and local**
30 **government agencies;**

31 (ii) Coordinate **AND ENSURE** the implementation of the
32 provisions of this Act, Batas Pambansa Blg. 344, otherwise
33 known as the Accessibility Law, **REPUBLIC ACT NO.**
34 **10754 ALSO KNOWN AS AN ACT EXPANDING THE**
35 **BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES OF PERSONS WITH**
36 **DISABILITIES** and other relevant laws **OR POLICIES** at
37 the local level;

38 (iii) Represent [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** in
39 meetings of local development councils and other special
40 bodies;

41 (iv) Recommend and enjoin the participation of
42 nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and people's

1 organizations (POs) in the implementation of all disability-
2 related laws and policies;

3 (v) Gather and compile relevant data on [PWDs] **PERSONS**
4 **WITH DISABILITIES** in their localities;

5 (vi) **MAINTAIN A UNIFORM AND STANDARDIZED LOCAL**
6 **DATABASE LINKED TO A NATIONAL PHILIPPINE**
7 **REGISTRY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY**
8 **(PRPWD) SYSTEM;**

9 (vii) Disseminate information including, but not limited to,
10 programs and activities for [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH**
11 **DISABILITIES**, statistics on [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH**
12 **DISABILITIES WITH CATEGORIES BY GENDER, TYPE**
13 **OF DISABILITY, PER BARANGAY, EDUCATIONAL**
14 **ATTAINMENT, EMPLOYMENT STATUS, AND OTHER**
15 **REQUIRED INFORMATION**, including children with
16 disabilities, and training and employment opportunities for
17 [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES;**

18 (viii) Submit **ANNUAL** reports to the office of the local chief
19 executive on the implementation of programs and services
20 for the **EMPOWERMENT AND** promotion of the **RIGHTS**
21 **AND** welfare of [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**
22 in their respective areas of jurisdiction. **THESE REPORTS**
23 **SHALL INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE**
24 **EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING PROGRAMS AND**
25 **SERVICES, AS WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR**
26 **IMPROVEMENTS AND FUTURE INITIATIVES;**

27 (ix) Ensure that the policies, plans and programs for the
28 **EMPOWERMENT AND** promotion of the **RIGHTS AND**
29 welfare of [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** are
30 funded by both the national and local government;

31 (x) Monitor fundraising activities being conducted for the
32 benefit of [PWDs] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. THE**
33 **PDAO SHALL ENSURE THAT FUNDRAISING**
34 **ACTIVITIES ARE CONDUCTED IN A TRANSPARENT**
35 **AND ACCOUNTABLE MANNER, AND THAT THE**
36 **PROCEEDS ARE USED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT**
37 **OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. THE PDAO SHALL**
38 **ALSO ENSURE THAT FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES ARE**
39 **CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE**
40 **LAWS AND REGULATIONS;**

41 (xi) Seek donations in cash or in kind from local or foreign
42 donors to implement an approved work plan for [PWDs]
43 **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**, in accordance with
44 existing laws and regulations. **THE PDAO SHALL ALSO**

1 ENSURE THAT ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED ARE
2 PROPERLY ACCOUNTED FOR AND REPORTED IN
3 ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND
4 REGULATIONS; and

- 5 (xii) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the
6 EMPOWERMENT AND promotion and protection of the
7 RIGHTS AND welfare of the [PWDs] PERSONS WITH
8 DISABILITIES.

9 (2) **DESIGNATION OF A Focal Person IN LIEU OF PDAOs**

10 In consideration of budget restraints, local chief executives of fourth
11 (4th), fifth (5th) and sixth (6th) class municipalities may, in lieu of the
12 creation of a PDAO, designate a focal person who shall perform the
13 functions of the PDAO. Priority in appointment should be given to a
14 [PWD] PERSON WITH DISABILITIES with experience in providing
15 services to [PWDs] PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SECTOR.
16 HOWEVER, THIS PROVISION SHALL NOT PRECLUDE THE 4TH,
17 5TH, OR 6TH CLASS MUNICIPALITIES FROM ESTABLISHING A
18 PDAO IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF JURISDICTION.

19 The establishment of a PDAO or the appointment of a focal person, as
20 the case may be, should be done in consultation and coordination with
21 the DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
22 (DILG), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), NGOs and POs.

23 **SEC. 3.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10070 is hereby amended to read as
24 follows:

25 SEC 3. Within three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act, appropriate
26 agencies, headed by the DILG, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
27 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), [in
28 consultation with the] NCDA and relevant NGOs and POs, shall review
29 its implementation and recommend to Congress the need to mandate
30 the establishment of a PDAO in fourth (4th), fifth (5th) and sixth (6th)
31 class municipalities.

32 **SEC. 4.** A new Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10070 is hereby inserted to read
33 as follows:

34 **SEC. 4. CREATION OF A DATABASE. - ALL PDAOS IN EVERY**
35 **PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED**
36 **AND REQUIRED TO CREATE, COLLECT AND MAINTAIN A**
37 **UNIFORM AND STANDARDIZED LOCAL DATABASE ON PERSONS**
38 **WITH DISABILITIES LINKED TO A NATIONAL PHILIPPINE**
39 **REGISTRY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PRPWD) SYSTEM.**
40 **DILG AND DOH ARE MANDATED TO FACILITATE THE CREATION**

1 **AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A UNIFORM LOCAL DATABASE FOR**
2 **PERSONS WITH DISABILITY. THE DATABASE SHALL**
3 **INCLUDE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION ON PERSONS WITH**
4 **DISABILITIES WITH CATEGORIES BY GENDER, TYPE OF**
5 **DISABILITY, PER BARANGAY, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT,**
6 **EMPLOYMENT STATUS, AND OTHER REQUIRED INFORMATION**

7 **SEC. 5.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10070, amending Section 40 of Republic
8 Act No. 7277, is hereby further amended to read as follows and renumbered
9 accordingly:

10 [SEC. 4. In order to effectively carry out the objectives of Republic Act
11 No. 7277, the National Government, through the DSWD, shall ensure
12 that the annual budget includes provisions to fund programs and provide
13 support for PWDs.

14 Local government units shall likewise ensure that the necessary fund
15 from any available local revenues is allocated for the implementation of
16 this Act for the benefit of PWDs in their jurisdictions.]

17 **SEC. 4. THE DILG IS MANDATED TO ENSURE THAT THE ANNUAL**
18 **BUDGET OF EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY**
19 **INCLUDES PROVISIONS TO FUND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A**
20 **PERSONS WITH DISABILITY OFFICE (PDAO) IN THEIR**
21 **RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS.**

22 **IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF**
23 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10070, EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND**
24 **MUNICIPALITY ARE HEREBY MANDATED TO ALLOCATE AT**
25 **LEAST 1 % FROM THEIR GENERAL FUND FOR THE**
26 **ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A PERSONS WITH**
27 **DISABILITY OFFICE (PDAO) IN THEIR RESPECTIVE**
28 **JURISDICTIONS AND THAT THE SAME BE INCLUDED IN THE**
29 **LGUS ANNUAL PLANS AND BUDGETS.**

30 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) ARE LIKEWISE MANDATED**
31 **TO ENSURE THAT THE NECESSARY FUND FROM LOCAL**
32 **REVENUES IS ALLOCATED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS**
33 **ACT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DISABILITY SECTOR THEIR**
34 **JURISDICTIONS.**

35 **SEC. 6.** A new Section 5 of Republic Act No. 10070 is hereby inserted to read
36 as follows:

1 **SEC. 5. APPROPRIATIONS. THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO CARRY**
2 **OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE**
3 **ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA).**

4 **SEC. 7.** A new Section 6 of Republic Act No. 10070 is hereby inserted to read
5 as follows:

6 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. - WITHIN**
7 **SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE**
8 **DILG, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DSWD, NCDA, DEPARTMENT**
9 **OF HEALTH (DOH), COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CHR), AND**
10 **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) SHALL PROMULGATE AND**
11 **ISSUE THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES FOR THE MANDATORY**
12 **ESTABLISHMENT OF PDAO IN ALL LGUS.**

13 **SEC. 8.** Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal
14 rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or
15 specific sectors under existing laws.

16 **SEC. 9.** If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the remainder provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in
18 full force and effect.

19 **SEC. 10.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and
20 regulations, ordinances, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with
21 any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

22 **SEC. 11.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
23 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

24 Approved,