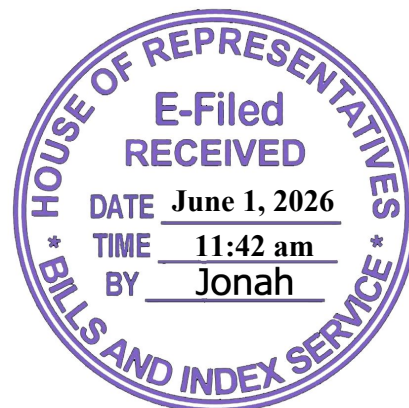


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9576



Introduced by

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

AN ACT

FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, BENEFITS, AND IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS," AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes its constitutional duty to protect and promote the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and to ensure their full participation in society. Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disability," as amended, has long served as the principal law safeguarding the rights, privileges, and welfare of PWDs in the Philippines. Despite existing legal protections, many PWDs continue to face barriers in accessing government services, employment opportunities, mobility assistance, social protection, and essential support systems.

One recurring concern raised by persons with disabilities, particularly those with permanent disabilities and elderly PWDs, is the burdensome process of repeatedly renewing identification cards despite the permanent nature of their conditions. Many are compelled to endure travel difficulties, inaccessible government facilities, long queues, and repetitive documentary requirements merely to maintain access to benefits already guaranteed by law. This situation imposes unnecessary hardship on a sector that the State is duty-bound to protect.

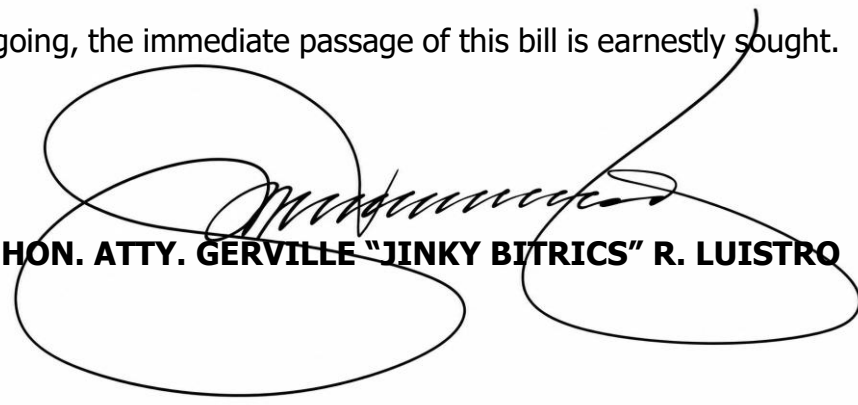
This measure seeks to strengthen and modernize the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability by institutionalizing reforms that improve accessibility, promote inclusion, and prevent abuse of the privileges granted to PWDs. It establishes standardized validity periods for PWD identification cards, including lifetime validity for persons with permanent disabilities and elderly PWDs, while ensuring safeguards against fraudulent use. It further enhances accountability through stronger penalties against the falsification, misuse, or illegal issuance of PWD identification cards.

The bill likewise expands support mechanisms for PWDs by recognizing assistive devices and assistive technology services as essential tools for independent living and social participation. It provides free assistive devices and services for marginalized PWDs, grants additional social protection measures such as monthly stipends for indigent persons with severe disabilities, mandates express lanes in establishments, and exempts qualified PWDs from certain travel-related government fees and charges.

In addition, the measure strengthens employment incentives for private entities hiring PWDs and promotes more meaningful compliance with employment opportunities reserved for them. It also mandates inter-agency coordination in establishing a unified and reliable database of persons with disabilities to improve policy implementation and service delivery nationwide.

Through these reforms, the bill seeks to uphold the dignity of persons with disabilities, eliminate unnecessary barriers to their participation in society, and ensure that government policies are truly inclusive, responsive, and accessible.

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



HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

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

3
4 **SECTION 1. Definition of terms.** - Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7277, as
5 amended, is hereby further amended to include the following definitions:

6
7 "Assistive Devices and Technologies" refer to devices the primary purpose of
8 which is to maintain or improve an individual's functioning and independence to
9 facilitate participation and enhance overall well-being by helping prevent impairments
10 and secondary health conditions. These include wheelchairs, walkers, prostheses,
11 hearing aids, visual aids, specialized computer software, hardware, peripherals, and
12 other devices that increase mobility, hearing, vision, communication, or functional
13 capacities.

14
15 "Assistive Technology Services" refer to any service that directly assists a
16 person with disability in the selection, acquisition, adaptation, maintenance, repair,
17 replacement, or use of assistive devices and technologies.

18

1
2 **SECTION 2. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby**
3 **further amended to read as follows:**

4
5 "SEC. 8. Incentives for Employers. —

6
7 (a) To encourage the active participation of the private sector in promoting the
8 rights and welfare of persons with disabilities and to ensure gainful employment for
9 qualified persons with disabilities, adequate incentives shall be provided to private
10 entities which employ persons with disabilities.

11
12 (b) Private entities that employ persons with disabilities who meet the required
13 skills or qualifications, either as regular employees, apprentices, or learners, shall be
14 entitled to an additional deduction from their gross income equivalent to twenty-five
15 percent (25%) of the total amount paid as salaries and wages to persons with
16 disabilities: PROVIDED, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
17 (DOLE) SHALL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE TO PRIVATE ENTITIES
18 PURSUANT TO EXISTING LABOR LAWS AND REGULATIONS: PROVIDED, FURTHER,
19 THAT IF THERE IS NO QUALIFIED PERSON WITH DISABILITY APPLICANT AFTER
20 THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE MANDATORY PUBLICATION OF A JOB VACANCY
21 RESERVED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE EMPLOYER MAY HIRE A NON-
22 PWD APPLICANT FOR SUCH RESERVED POSITION UPON PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE
23 DOLE.

24
25 (c) x x x."

26
27
28 **SECTION 3. Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is**
29 **hereby further amended to read as follows:**

30
31 "SEC. 32. Persons with disabilities shall be entitled to the following:

32
33 x x x

34
35 (k) PROVISION OF EXPRESS LANES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ALL
36 COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS; IN THE ABSENCE THEREOF,
37 PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO THEM;

38
39 (l) A MONTHLY STIPEND AMOUNTING TO FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00)
40 TO AUGMENT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE, MEDICAL, AND OTHER NEEDS OF
41 MARGINALIZED AND INDIGENT PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES: PROVIDED,
42 THAT PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES WHO ARE RECIPIENTS OF SIMILAR
43 GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING MONETARY
44 ASSISTANCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE PANTAWID
45 FAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS), SHALL NO LONGER BE ENTITLED TO THIS
46 STIPEND;

1 (m) PROVISION OF FREE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, INCLUDING
2 THE EVALUATION OF FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY, SELECTION, DESIGN, FITTING,
3 CUSTOMIZATION, ADAPTATION, APPLICATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, OR
4 REPLACEMENT OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES, SIGN LANGUAGE
5 INTERPRETING, JOB COACHING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER FORMS OF
6 SUPPORT SERVICES: PROVIDED, THAT THE BENEFICIARY IS A MARGINALIZED
7 PERSON WITH DISABILITY AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE OF THE
8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED;

9
10 (n) PROVISION OF FREE ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES,
11 INCLUDING TECHNICAL AIDS, PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC DEVICES, AND OTHER
12 DEVICES NECESSARY TO RESTORE OR IMPROVE THE SOCIAL FUNCTIONING AND
13 PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND
14 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: PROVIDED, THAT THE BENEFICIARY IS A MARGINALIZED
15 PERSON WITH DISABILITY AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE OF THE
16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED; AND

17
18 (o) EXEMPTION FROM PASSPORT PROCESSING FEES, TRAVEL TAXES,
19 TERMINAL FEES, AND OTHER FEES OR CHARGES IMPOSED IN AIRPORTS, PORTS,
20 TERMINALS, OR SIMILAR FACILITIES BY THE GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT-OWNED
21 OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, OR INSTRUMENTALITIES THEREOF.

22 THE ABOVEMENTIONED PRIVILEGES SHALL BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO FILIPINO
23 CITIZENS, REFUGEES, OR STATELESS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES UPON
24 SUBMISSION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AS PROOF OF ENTITLEMENT THERETO:

25
26 (I) A PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE
27 PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AFFAIRS OFFICE (PDAO), A DESIGNATED FOCAL
28 PERSON PERFORMING PDAO FUNCTIONS, THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT,
29 OR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (NCDA), DULY SIGNED BY THE
30 CITY OR MUNICIPAL MAYOR OF THE PLACE WHERE THE PERSON WITH DISABILITY
31 RESIDES;

32
33 (II) THE PASSPORT OF THE PERSON WITH DISABILITY CONCERNED; OR

34
35 (III) A TRANSPORTATION DISCOUNT FARE IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED
36 BY THE NCDA.

37
38 THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
39 SHALL CONFORM TO THE UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRESCRIBED BY THE NCDA AND
40 ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

41
42 IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT
43 DISABILITIES, AS CERTIFIED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH OFFICE AND
44 VERIFIED BY THE LOCAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, OR TO
45 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE AT LEAST SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD, SHALL
46 BE VALID DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE HOLDER.

1 IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH TEMPORARY
2 DISABILITIES SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS AND MAY BE
3 RENEWED ONLY UPON COMPLETION OF REASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY AN
4 APPROPRIATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

5
6 ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARDS, INCLUDING
7 REPLACEMENT CARDS ISSUED DUE TO LOSS OR DAMAGE, SHALL BE ISSUED FREE
8 OF CHARGE.

9
10 THE NCDA SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS,
11 ISSUE AND PERIODICALLY UPDATE THE LIST OF DISABILITIES CONSIDERED
12 PERMANENT FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING LIFETIME VALIDITY OF
13 IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

14
15 THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) SHALL
16 ENSURE THAT SAFEGUARDS AND MONITORING SYSTEMS ARE ESTABLISHED TO
17 PREVENT THE MISUSE OR ABUSE OF LIFETIME-VALID IDENTIFICATION CARDS,
18 PARTICULARLY UPON THE DEATH OF THE HOLDER.”

19
20 **SECTION 4. Section 46 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is**
21 **hereby further amended to read as follows:**

22
23 “SEC. 46. Penal Clause. —

24
25 x x x

26
27 (b) ANY PERSON WHO ABUSES THE PRIVILEGES GRANTED UNDER THIS ACT,
28 INCLUDING:

29
30 (1) MISREPRESENTING ONESELF AS A PERSON WITH DISABILITY;

31
32 (2) ASSISTING NON-PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, DIRECTLY OR
33 INDIRECTLY, IN FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING A PERSONS WITH DISABILITY
34 IDENTIFICATION CARD;

35
36 (3) FORGING OR CREATING FAKE PERSONS WITH DISABILITY
37 IDENTIFICATION CARDS; OR

38
39 (4) USING THE IDENTIFICATION CARD AFTER THE DEATH OF THE HOLDER,
40 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW,

41
42 SHALL BE PENALIZED WITH IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6)
43 MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS, OR A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN
44 FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED
45 THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT,
46 WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE, CIVIL, OR CRIMINAL
47 LIABILITY.

48

1 IF THE OFFENDER IS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, SUCH OFFENDER SHALL
2 LIKEWISE BE PROSECUTED UNDER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE REVISED
3 PENAL CODE ON FALSIFICATION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

4
5 IF THE OFFENDER IS A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE WHO KNOWINGLY
6 ISSUES OR FACILITATES THE ISSUANCE OF FRAUDULENT PERSONS WITH
7 DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARDS IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY, SUCH OFFENDER
8 SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF PRISIÓN MAYOR IN ITS MINIMUM TO MEDIUM
9 PERIODS, PERPETUAL DISQUALIFICATION FROM PUBLIC OFFICE, AND A FINE OF
10 NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT NOT MORE
11 THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00), WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO
12 PROSECUTION UNDER THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT AND OTHER
13 APPLICABLE LAWS.

14
15 IF THE FALSIFICATION, SALE, DISTRIBUTION, OR USE OF FAKE PERSONS
16 WITH DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARDS IS COMMITTED THROUGH
17 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING WEBSITES,
18 SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, MESSAGING APPLICATIONS, OR ELECTRONIC
19 COMMERCE PLATFORMS, THE OFFENDER SHALL LIKEWISE BE PROSECUTED UNDER
20 REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'CYBERCRIME PREVENTION
21 ACT OF 2012,' IN ADDITION TO LIABILITIES UNDER THIS ACT AND OTHER
22 APPLICABLE LAWS."

23
24 **SECTION 5. Unified Database and Monitoring System.** - The NCDA and
25 the DSWD, in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the
26 Department of Health (DOH), the Department of the Interior and Local Government
27 (DILG), the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the Department of Information
28 and Communications Technology (DICT), and other concerned agencies, shall
29 strengthen and maintain a unified, secure, and reliable national database or registry
30 of persons with disabilities, including a community-based monitoring system, to ensure
31 efficient implementation of programs, benefits, and services under this Act.

32
33 **SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within one hundred
34 eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCDA and the DSWD, in
35 coordination with the DOH, DILG, DOLE, CSC, PSA, GCG, DICT, and other relevant
36 government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
37 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

38
39 **SECTION 7. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation
40 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

41
42 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared
43 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain
44 in full force and effect.

45
46 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules
47 and regulations, ordinances, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with
48 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

1 **SECTION 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
2 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
3

4 Approved,