

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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9885**



Introduced by Representative Timothy Joseph Cayton

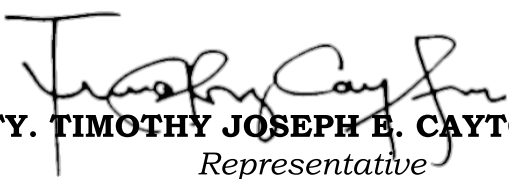
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our Constitution directs the State to give priority to the needs of the underprivileged, the sick, the elderly, the disabled, women, and children within an integrated approach to health and social development.¹ The Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, as amended, affirms the same commitment.² Yet while the State already extends a monthly social pension to indigent senior citizens under Republic Act No. 11916, no equivalent, predictable, and universal cash support exists for persons with disability.

Disability imposes recurring costs that ordinary income does not capture, among them maintenance medicines, assistive devices, rehabilitation, caregiver support, and specialized transportation. These costs are borne by every person with a disability, regardless of economic status. For those without income, the twenty percent discount under existing law offers little relief because a discount helps only those who already have money to spend. For those with limited income, the additional burden of disability-related expenses erodes what little they earn. The result is a structural gap in the social protection system that falls across the full spectrum of persons with disability.

By converting scattered and discretionary assistance into an enforceable and universal statutory entitlement, this measure affirms the dignity, inclusion, and full participation of all persons with disability in national life.

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


ATTY. TIMOTHY JOSEPH E. CAYTON, PhD.
Representative
Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

¹ Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution.

² Republic Act No. 7277, 24 Mar. 1992, as amended by Republic Act No. 9442, 30 Apr. 2007.

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the ***Social Pension for Persons with Disability Act***.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that ensures the well-being and full participation of all sectors of society, including persons with disability. The State recognizes that disability imposes recurring and substantial costs of living that are additive to the ordinary expenses of every household.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. ***Person with Disability*** or *PWD* refers to an individual with a long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder the full and effective participation of that individual in society on an equal basis with others, as contemplated under Republic Act No. 7277, as amended.
- b. ***Social Pension*** refers to the monthly cash grant provided by the government under this Act to augment the daily subsistence and disability-related needs of a PWD.
- c. ***Social pension of the same nature*** refers to a regular and recurring non-contributory cash pension granted by the national government on the basis of vulnerability status, such as the social pension for indigent senior citizens, and does not include conditional cash transfers or other distinct forms of assistance.
- d. ***PRPWD*** refers to the Philippine Registry for Persons with Disabilities maintained for the registration and recording of PWDs.

SECTION 4. Grant of Social Pension. – Every PWD who is duly registered in the PRPWD and holds a valid PWD Identification Card issued pursuant to Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, shall be entitled to a monthly social pension of not less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to augment daily subsistence and to help meet disability-related needs. The grant shall be subject to existing government auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. Eligibility and Verification. – To qualify, a person must be a PWD who is duly registered in the PRPWD and holds a valid PWD Identification Card issued pursuant to Republic Act No. 7277, as amended. Eligibility shall be determined and validated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and shall be cross-validated against the Philippine Identification System established under Republic Act No. 11055 and the PRPWD to prevent duplication and fraud. The list of beneficiaries shall be validated and updated at least annually.

SECTION 6. Coordination and Non-Duplication of Benefits. – A PWD who is a beneficiary under this Act shall not, at the same time, receive another social pension of the same nature, including the social pension for indigent senior citizens. A PWD who qualifies for more than one social pension of the same nature shall elect the more beneficial one. ***This Act shall not, however, disqualify a beneficiary from receiving the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or any other distinct form of government assistance whose purpose differs from this social pension.*** The social pension under this Act shall not reduce, offset, or diminish any benefit already extended to PWDs by local government units.

SECTION 7. Lead Agency. – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall lead the implementation of this Act, coordinating with the National Council on Disability Affairs, the Department of Health for certification standards, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and local government units for registration, and the Department of Budget and Management for funding. In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Ministry of Social Services and Development shall implement the program following national guidelines.

SECTION 8. Periodic Review and Indexation. – Every two years, the DSWD, with the NCDA and DBM, shall review and, if necessary, increase the social pension based on PSA economic indicators and the consumer price index. The adjusted amount must never fall below the current rate.

SECTION 9. Database and Data Privacy. – The National Council on Disability Affairs, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and local governments shall maintain a secure PWD beneficiary database for verification and planning. Data handling must comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012, utilizing access controls and audit logs strictly for program administration and policy development.

SECTION 10. Grievance and Appeals Mechanism. – Implementing rules shall provide an accessible grievance and appeals system for contesting pension denials, suspensions, or terminations. Decisions must be rendered promptly and provided to the applicant or beneficiary in an accessible format.

SECTION 11. Penal Provisions. – Any person who deliberately commits a fraudulent act to enroll a non-qualified person, or who knowingly facilitates the issuance of a fraudulent PWD Identification Card to obtain the social pension, shall, for the first violation, be fined not less than Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), and for any subsequent violation, not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00). If the offender is a public officer, administrative liability shall attach in addition to the foregoing. The penalties under this Act are without prejudice to liability under other laws.

SECTION 12. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current 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.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, within sixty (60) days of this Act's effectivity, promulgate its implementing rules and regulations in coordination with the National Council on Disability Affairs, the Department of Budget and Management, and disabled persons organizations.

SECTION 14. Suppletory Clause. – The provisions of Republic Act No. 7277, the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, as amended by Republic Act No. 9442 and Republic Act No. 10754, shall have suppletory effect to this Act.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 17. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,