



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



House Bill No. 10217

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
— *Galatians 6:2*

The Constitution mandates the State to promote social justice, protect the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities (PWDs), and ensure their full participation in society. As a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Philippines has likewise committed to adopting measures that guarantee equal access to healthcare, education, employment, rehabilitation, assistive technologies, community support services, and independent living for persons with disabilities. These commitments recognize that disability often entails additional costs and barriers that require targeted government intervention beyond general social welfare programs.

Despite existing laws such as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities and various programs providing discounts, privileges, and social assistance, many Filipinos with disabilities continue to face significant disability-related expenses, including costs for medicines, rehabilitation, mobility aids, assistive devices, transportation, personal assistance, and specialized educational and employment support. These additional financial burdens frequently result in deeper poverty, reduced economic participation, and diminished opportunities for independent living, particularly among indigent persons with disabilities.

This bill seeks to establish a Disability Support Fund that will provide sustained financial assistance and strengthen disability-specific services for indigent persons with disabilities. The measure envisions a comprehensive support system that complements existing national and local government programs by funding disability support services, enhancing the capacity of Persons with Disability Affairs Offices (PDAOs), supporting organizations of persons with disabilities, and providing a regular monthly allowance to qualified beneficiaries to help address disability-related extra costs. It likewise institutionalizes a disability and needs assessment system to ensure that assistance is provided using a rights-based and functional approach consistent with international standards.

The proposed measure further strengthens inter-agency coordination through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), establishes an integrated disability data management system linked with existing government databases, and adopts a phased implementation strategy prioritizing children with disabilities, persons facing the highest support needs, and those already enrolled in existing social protection programs. By recognizing disability-related costs as a distinct dimension of poverty, the bill seeks to promote greater independence, improve access to essential services, facilitate employment and community participation, and reduce long-standing barriers to inclusion.

Through the establishment of a dedicated Disability Support Fund, the State affirms its commitment to inclusive development by ensuring that persons with disabilities receive not only legal recognition of their rights but also the practical support necessary to exercise those rights fully and equally. Investing in disability inclusion ultimately strengthens communities, expands economic participation, and promotes a more equitable and compassionate society for all Filipinos.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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HOUSE BILL NO. 10217

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND FOR THE EMPOWERMENT,
FULL PARTICIPATION, AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN
SOCIETY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Disability Support*
2 *Fund Act.*"
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The Philippines, as a State Party to the United
5 Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), recognizes
6 all the rights of persons with disabilities and shall take effective and appropriate
7 measures to respect, protect, and fulfill the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities
8 of these rights such as, but not limited to, access to habilitation and rehabilitation
9 services, participation in socio-economic activities, access to a range of in-home,
10 residential, and other community support services, including personal assistance,
11 learning and assistive devices, and technology necessary to support living
12 independently and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation
13 from the community.
14

15 It is the declared policy of the State to adopt the generally accepted principles of
16 international law as part of the law of the land. It is likewise vital that the State advance
17 social justice in order to end poverty in all its forms, particularly the historical
18 deprivation of the support required by persons with disabilities for their effective
19 inclusion and full participation in society.
20

21 To attain a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and
22 independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that
23 provide adequate social services, promote full employment, raises the standard of
24 living, and improve the quality of life, appropriate measures in developing social
25 protection programs and allowances that recognize the additional costs associated
26 with disability shall be undertaken.

1 Towards this end, the State shall establish a Disability Support Fund to augment
2 local government units' assistance for their disability-specific and mainstreamed
3 programs and services, targeting persons with disabilities to support their need to
4 access services and new skills leading to social and economic productivity, and
5 allowing them to gain greater independence and become contributing members in
6 nation-building.

7
8 In pursuit of these ends, disability support assistance shall be extended to
9 indigent persons with disabilities to cover part of the disability-related extra costs
10 generated by their disability-specific needs and barriers resulting from inaccessibility
11 of facilities and services.

12
13 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms are
14 defined, as follows:

- 15
16 (a) **Disability** is an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations, and
17 participation restrictions, referring to the negative aspects of interaction
18 between an individual with health condition and contextual factors;
- 19 (b) **Barriers** are anything that hinders persons with disabilities from enjoying or
20 exercising all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political,
21 economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field, on an equal basis with others.
22 Barriers in all its forms encompass inaccessible physical environments and
23 transportation; the unavailability of assistive devices and technologies;
24 inaccessible information both in form and content; nonadaptive means of
25 communication; gaps in service delivery such as unavailability of personal
26 assistance and sign language interpretation service; discrimination including
27 denial of reasonable accommodation; attitude, prejudice, and stigma in
28 society; programs, policies, and laws infringing on the rights of persons with
29 disabilities as recognized under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with
30 Disabilities (CRPD);
- 31 (c) **Indigent** as used in this Act, is a person with disability who has no visible
32 means of income or whose income is insufficient for maintenance medications,
33 treatments, and other disability-related extra costs, as identified based on
34 specific criteria to be formulated by the Department of Social Welfare and
35 Development (DSWD), the National Council of Disability Affairs (NCDA), and
36 representatives from national organizations of persons with disabilities, in
37 accordance with the guiding principles set forth in Section 2;
- 38 (d) **Impairment** is the description of body structures that are diminished,
39 weakened, or damaged. Impairments can be divided into primary and
40 secondary:
- 41 (i) Primary impairments are motor behaviors that are directly related to
42 changes in any system. Examples may include muscle tone, postural
43 stability, motor coordination. Primary impairments are any
44 impairments that are present at birth such as heart defects, endocrine
45 diagnoses, visual impairments;
- 46 (ii) Secondary impairments develop over time and frequently as a result
47 of the primary impairments. Examples may include decreased range
48 of motion, force production and endurance;
- 49 (e) **Persons with Disability (PWD)** include those who have long-term physical,
50 mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various

- 1 barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal
2 basis with others;
- 3 (f) **Community Support Systems** refers to the combination of services,
4 products, and people that assist persons with disabilities to carry out daily life
5 activities and participate in their communities;
- 6 (g) **Disability and Needs Assessment** refers to the process by which disability
7 of an individual is officially recognized for the purpose of eligibility
8 determination to diverse entitlements. It is based on a human rights mode of
9 disability, with a focus on functional limitations, support requirements, and
10 barriers restricting participation.
- 11 Persons who may fall in this definition are all other persons under the
12 disability assessment and determination system issued by the Persons with
13 Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) which will be developed under this law and
14 shall also be used in the issuance of the persons with disability identification
15 card (ID);
- 16 (h) **Habilitation** refers to a process aimed at helping people gain certain new
17 skills, abilities, and knowledge. Habilitation involves learning skills that will
18 enable a person to function in society, which are usually programs that target
19 children born with disabilities;
- 20 (i) **Reasonable Accommodation** means the necessary and appropriate
21 modification and adjustments so as not to impose disproportionate or undue
22 burden, and to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy or exercise on an
23 equal basis all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- 24 (j) **Rehabilitation** means restoring capacity and ability, and refers to re-gaining
25 skills, abilities, or knowledge that may have been lost or compromised as a
26 result of acquiring a disability, or due to a change in one's disability or
27 circumstances. This generally applies to an adult who has to re-adapt to
28 society after acquiring a disability;
- 29 (k) **Progressive Realization** means undertaking measures to the maximum of
30 its available resources and, where needed, within the framework of
31 international cooperation, with a view of achieving progressively the full
32 realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in
33 the CRPD that are immediately applicable according to international law;
- 34 (l) **Disability-Related Extra Costs** are the expenses subjected to a person with
35 disability based on disability-specific needs and barriers resulting from
36 inaccessibility of facilities and services. Refers to the direct (e.g., buying
37 assistive device, paying for personal assistance or sign language
38 interpretation service, extra health care like medicines, more expensive
39 housing or transportation service, etc.) and indirect (e.g., loss productivity
40 because of longer travel time such as experienced by those who need to travel
41 by wheelchair because they cannot use the cheaper public transport, family
42 members who stop working to provide care and support to persons with
43 disabilities, etc.) costs as a result of their disability that drives persons with
44 disabilities in situation of poverty, exposure to vulnerability of exclusion, or
45 restriction to participation;
- 46 (m) **Children with Disabilities** include those individuals under the age of eighteen
47 who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments
48 which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective
49 participation in society on an equal basis;

- 1 (n) **Disability-Related Needs** include disability-related medical supplies (e.g.,
2 medicines, catheters, diapers), medical-related services (e.g., rehabilitation
3 services, etc.), assistive products, personal assistance, sign language
4 interpreter, higher cost of accessing services because of lack of accessibility
5 (e.g., transportation cost), and others; and
- 6 (o) **Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD)** are led, directed, and
7 governed by persons with disabilities with a clear majority of their membership
8 being recruited among persons with disabilities themselves. Examples of
9 OPDs include national organizations of women with disabilities, impairment-
10 specific organizations such as national organizations of persons of
11 psychosocial disability, parents representing children with disabilities, cross-
12 disability organizations, specific health conditions recognized under the
13 Philippine law such as patients and survivor of cancer, persons with rare
14 diseases, and all other organizations of persons with disabilities as recognized
15 under the CRPD.
16

17 **SEC. 4. Disability Support Fund.** - The Disability Support Fund aims to
18 address the gaps in the program implementation currently undertaken at the national
19 and at the local level through programs and projects of local government units (LGUs)
20 and civil society organizations (CSOs). LGUs and accredited CSOs Will also be
21 assisted through funding to establish responsive services supporting independent
22 living of persons with disabilities.
23

24 The Disability Support Fund shall provide individuals with disabilities the
25 opportunity to avail of disability related services and have access to government
26 assistance and services for all. The Disability Support Fund shall have the following
27 components, such as, but not limited to the following:
28

- 29 (a) LGUs establishing a comprehensive Disability Support Services through
30 provincial, city and municipal persons with Disabilities Affairs Office;
31 (b) Development of affordable and accessible Disability Support Services
32 managed by organizations of persons with disabilities; and
33 (c) Individual Support Allowance for qualified persons with disabilities, identified
34 by the National Disability Assessment and Determination System which shall
35 be developed by a Technical Working Group led by the DSWD, Department
36 of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), and the Department of
37 Labor and Employment (DOLE) with diverse representations from
38 Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.
39

40 This support shall cover expenses related to disability such as, but not limited to,
41 augmentation to transportation services, food and nutrition, disability support services
42 provided by human interventions, maintenance medicines, rehabilitation services,
43 educational needs, such as but not limited to assistive devices, technology and
44 support equipment, pre-employment and during employment services, and access to
45 government assistance and services for all.
46

47 The Disability Support Fund shall aim to provide a periodic and regular stipend
48 to indigent persons with disabilities based on the eligibility criteria to be formulated by
49 the DSWD, the NDA, and representatives from national organizations of persons with
50 disabilities. The initial amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) a month per

individual beneficiary shall be set for the Disability Support Fund, which will be indexed to inflation and must account for the expenses or costs of services and tools related to disability to preserve its positive impact on the standards of living and participation of people with disabilities. This would contribute, in combination with existing social protection programs and discounts to address the higher cost of transportation, housing, nutrition, hygiene, and temporary human assistance requirements, among others. For working age adults who are out of work, it will provide a basic income security and will help cover disability related costs for finding and keeping work.

The Program shall be implemented in two (2) phases starting with the existing master list of LUs who already have the ID:

(a) Phase 1 - The initial phase of the Disability Support Fund Program, to be implemented in the first three (3) years, shall prioritize provision of stipends to:

- (i) Children with disabilities;
- (ii) Adults with moderate and severe disability, who are facing the highest barriers and disability-related costs; and
- (iii) Persons with disabilities who are recipients of social protection and economic empowerment programs such as but not limited to the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens;

(b) Phase 2- The second phase of the Program, to be implemented in the next three (3) years, shall include all persons with disabilities certified as indigent by the DSWD, based on the eligibility criteria to be formulated under this Act.

Provided, That the abovementioned programs and services on counseling, capability-building of social workers, both local and national, and provision of assistive equipment and devices, such as wheelchairs, and prosthetic devices, among others, may be given in addition to the abovementioned Program to indigent persons with disabilities.

SEC. 5. Coverage. - All indigent persons with disabilities, as certified by the DSWD, based on a human rights approach, shall be covered by the provisions of this Act. Priority shall initially be given to children with disabilities and adults with significant disabilities who are facing the highest barriers and disability-related costs.

However, the aim is to eventually cover all registered persons with disabilities who have either no income or have low levels of income as well as persons with disabilities who face disability-related extra costs that deprive them of an adequate standard of living.

SEC. 6. Eligibility. - In determining eligibility to avail of the Disability Support Fund, the Disability and Needs Assessment System shall be considered, with a focus on functional limitations, support requirements, and barriers to participation.

In recognition of the multiple forms of poverty and the extent of disability-related costs required for basic participation, eligibility of persons with disabilities to avail of the Disability Support Fund will be compatible, insofar as practicable, with eligibility and benefits from different social protection and economic empowerment programs

1 such as, but not limited to, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, the Fund
2 acting as a top-up for subsidizing disability-related extra costs.

3
4 Provided, That the DSWD may, in its discretion, adopt additional bases to
5 achieve the objectives of this Act.

6
7 **SEC. 7. Role of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).**

8 - The DSWD shall be the administrator of the Disability Support Fund. All applications
9 for availing of the Fund shall be lodged with the DSWD. In partnership with the NCDA,
10 organizations of persons with disabilities, all concerned government agencies, local
11 government units thru the PDAO, and non-government organizations shall implement
12 programs and services targeting persons with disabilities.

13
14 All policies concerning programs and services for persons with disabilities shall
15 be reviewed and enhanced for clarity of operationalization at the local level by the
16 DSWD.

17
18 **SEC. 8. Disability and Needs Assessment System.** - To effectively implement
19 social protection measures targeting persons with disabilities, a Disability Data
20 Management System shall be created and managed by the DSWD, in coordination
21 with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and shall
22 be linked to the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) which aid in the
23 development of poverty-reduction programs from local to the national level. Linkage
24 to the National ID System, and the DOH Persons with Disability Registry, which is
25 mirrored with the PhilHealth Database System, shall also be done to provide real-time
26 disability data and subsidized enrolment to PhilHealth insurance.

27
28 **SEC. 9. Policy on Disability Identification Cards.** - The issuance of Disability
29 Identification Cards pursuant to Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the
30 "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," as amended, along with other relevant
31 laws, administrative issuances, and local ordinances, shall incorporate the information
32 necessary for the granting of the periodic and regular Disability Support Fund
33 allocation to eligible persons with disabilities.

34
35 **SEC. 10. Penal Provisions.** - The penalties shall apply to the following:

- 36
37 (a) Any PWD, or his/her parent or his/her relative of any degree of consanguinity
38 or affinity, or any third person found to be deliberately committing any
39 fraudulent act of applying or enrolling a PWD to the benefits of this law when
40 a person is not eligible shall suffer the following:
41 (i) For the first violation, a fine of not less than Twenty-five Thousand Pesos
42 (P25,000) but not exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000);
43 (ii) For any subsequent violations, a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand
44 Pesos (P50,000.00) but not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos
45 (P100,000.00); and
46 (b) Any person, natural or juridical, violating any provision of this Act and its
47 Implementing Rules and Regulations, except violations pertaining to
48 Subsection (a) of this Section, shall be penalized with a fine of not less than
49 Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred
50 Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00). If the violator is a corporation, organization

1 or any similar juridical entity, the officials directly involved and responsible
2 shall be liable therefor.
3

4 **SEC. 11. Monitoring.** - The DSWD, in collaboration with representatives of the
5 Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, is hereby tasked to convene an Inter-
6 Agency Committee to make an annual assessment of the implementation of this Act.
7

8 **SEC. 12. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of
9 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations of the DSWD in the
10 year following its enactment into law and thereafter. The allocated budget shall
11 gradually increase in fulfillment of the progressive realization principle.
12

13 **SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The rules and regulations
14 necessary for the effective and efficient enforcement of the provisions of this Act shall
15 be formulated by the DSWD, in consultation with relevant government agencies, LGUs,
16 the private sector, and other stakeholders, and shall be implemented within ninety (90)
17 days from the effectivity of this Act.
18

19 Unjustified or willful failure or refusal of the concerned government agencies to
20 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within the specified period
21 shall subject the heads of these government agencies to administrative penalties
22 under applicable civil service laws.
23

24 Should the IRR contain provisions that are contrary to this Act, the heads of the
25 government agencies responsible for such provision, when done in bad faith or with
26 gross negligence, shall be held administratively liable.
27

28 **SEC. 14. Report to Congress.** - The DSWD shall annually submit a report to
29 Congress on the status of the implementation of this Act for the purpose of review and
30 recommendation of additional measures necessary for the attainment of the objectives
31 of this Act.
32

33 **SEC. 15. Suppletory Clause.** - The provisions of Republic Act No. 7277,
34 otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," as amended by
35 Republic Act No. 10754 and Republic Act No. 9442, have suppletory effect to the
36 provisions of this Act.
37

38 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
39 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
40 remain in force and effect.
41

42 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
43 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
44 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

45 **SEC. 18. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
46 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
47

48 *Approved,*