



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10756**



Introduced by **Representative ALFREDO “ALBEE” B. BENITEZ**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY
IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT
DISABILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED
PERSONS”, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A government identification card ought to make it easier for a citizen to access their rights, not require them to repeatedly prove that they deserve them. For persons with permanent disabilities, the current requirement to periodically renew a Persons with Disability (PWD) Identification Card can turn a necessary government service into an unnecessary and repetitive burden. A person whose blindness, deafness, loss of a limb, or other disability has been medically established as permanent should not have to repeatedly secure certifications, undergo administrative procedures, travel to government offices, and spend time and money simply to prove once again what is already known to be permanent.

For many persons with disabilities, every renewal may mean additional transportation expenses, physical exertion, time away from work or livelihood, dependence on companions, and navigating government facilities and procedures that may themselves present accessibility barriers. A process intended to facilitate access to benefits and privileges can, in practice, become another barrier to accessing them. This is why the law must distinguish between disabilities that are *permanent* and those that are *temporary*. The appropriate policy, therefore, is not to subject everyone to the same renewal requirement, but to establish a system proportionate to the nature of the disability.

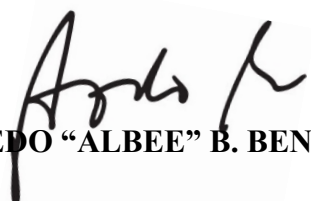
This bill seeks to establish that distinction between permanent and temporary disabilities. It grants lifetime validity to PWD Identification Cards issued to persons with permanent disabilities, upon certification by the appropriate Municipal or City Health Office, while retaining a two-year validity period and medical reassessment requirement for persons with

temporary disabilities. These PWD Identification Cards shall conform to the universal design prescribed by the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and adopted by local government units, and shall be issued free of charge.

At its core, this measure advances a simple principle: government should not make persons with permanent disabilities repeatedly prove what the government has already certified as permanent. Instead, public systems should adapt to the realities of persons with disabilities by removing unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining reasonable safeguards against fraud, misuse, and inaccurate records. These proposed reforms also affirm the Philippines' obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), particularly its commitment to eliminate barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their rights and participating fully and equally in society. Accessibility must extend beyond physical spaces to include identification systems, government procedures, and administrative requirements that directly affect the daily lives of persons with disabilities.

By establishing lifetime validity for PWD Identification Cards of persons with permanent disabilities, maintaining appropriate reassessment for temporary disabilities, requiring universal design, and ensuring that the cards are provided free of charge, this bill seeks to make the PWD identification system more accessible, equitable, efficient, and humane. The proposed legislation will reduce unnecessary paperwork, repeated medical certification, transportation costs, and time spent on renewal procedures, while allowing local government units to focus their administrative and medical resources on cases that genuinely require assessment or reassessment. Most importantly, this measure recognizes that government systems should respond to the realities of persons with disabilities.

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



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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 “*Lifetime Validity of Persons with Disability Cards for Persons with Permanent Disability Act*”.

SECTION 2. Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons”, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 32. Persons with [~~disability~~] **DISABILITIES** shall be entitled to the following:

xxx

The above-mentioned privileges are available only to persons with [~~disability~~] **PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY DISABILITIES** who are Filipino citizens, **REFUGEES, OR STATELESS PERSONS** upon submission of [~~any of the following as proof of his/her entitlement thereto~~]:

[~~(4)~~] An identification card issued by the [~~city or municipal mayor or the barangay captain~~] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AFFAIRS OFFICE (PDAO) OR A DESIGNATED FOCAL PERSON PERFORMING PDAO FUNCTIONS, DULY SIGNED BY THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL**

MAYOR of the place where the persons with [disability] **DISABILITIES** reside[s], **AS PROOF OF THEIR ENTITLEMENT THERETO.**

~~[(H) The passport of the persons with disability concerned; or~~

~~(III) Transportation discount fare Identification Card (ID) issued by the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP).~~

THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL CONFORM TO THE UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRESCRIBED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (NCDA) AND ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

THE IDs ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES SHALL BE VALID DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE HOLDER, AND MAY BE RENEWED IN CASE OF LOSS OR DAMAGE: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH PERMANENT DISABILITY IS CERTIFIED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH OFFICE WHERE THE PERSON WITH DISABILITY RESIDES; PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE ISSUING OFFICES SHALL IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS IS NOT ABUSED, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE HOLDER OF THE ID DIES.

CONVERSELY, THE IDs FOR PERSONS WITH TEMPORARY DISABILITIES SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS, AND MAY BE RENEWED ONLY UPON COMPLETION OF REASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY AN APPROPRIATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

THE IDs, AS PROVIDED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH SHALL BE FREE OF CHARGE, INCLUDING REISSUANCE DUE TO LOSS OR DAMAGE.”

SECTION 3. Section 46 of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons”, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 46. Penal Clause. – xxx

(b) Any persons who abuses the privileges granted [~~herein shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six months or a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00), but not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.~~] **UNDER THIS ACT, INCLUDING:**

1. MISREPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES;

2. ASSISTING PERSONS WITHOUT DISABILITIES, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING A PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ID CARD;

3. FORGING OR CREATING FAKE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ID CARDS; OR

4. USING THE ID CARD AFTER THE DEATH OF THE HOLDER EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 32 (a) (8) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10754,

SHALL BE PENALIZED WITH A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO SUCH OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE, CIVIL, AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY THAT MAY BE INCURRED.”

xxx

SECTION 4. *Community-Based Monitoring System.* – The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall, in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), strengthen a unified and reliable database or registry of persons with disabilities, including a Community-Based Monitoring System.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCDA and the DSWD shall, in coordination with the DILG, the DOH, and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,