

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 10786



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING ONLINE VOLUNTEERISM OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Volunteerism is one of the ways citizens can participate actively in nation building. It encourages the involvement of the public in important social and civil affairs. Opportunities for volunteerism activities, however, mostly require service delivery in physical or face-to-face set-ups.

While the State provides for the inclusion and integration of Persons with Disabilities into the mainstream of society, physical disability may limit a person’s capacity to participate in volunteer work.

In the Philippines, about 2.5 million Filipinos are registered persons with disability¹. To uphold the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities, Republic Act No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons was enacted in 1992.

Throughout the years, RA 7277 has had its fair share of amendments to adapt to the times. Despite this, there remains a gap in making volunteerism opportunities inclusive to persons with disabilities.

Fortunately, the digital age has brought forth great opportunities for persons with disabilities to further participate in social activities by breaking

¹ 2025 National Council for Disability Affairs.

certain barriers of inaccessibility. With the help of assistive technology, persons with disabilities have become part of online conversations and engagements.

Given the promise of the digital age, this bill seeks to provide persons with disabilities with opportunities to engage in worthy humanitarian activities and overcome barriers to inclusion through online volunteerism. These online opportunities will enable them to develop their skills and become part of communities that advance different advocacies and human development, as they participate in society on an equal basis with everyone else while helping their fellow people who face different challenges.

Online volunteerism will serve as a platform for our siblings with disabilities to share their strengths, abilities, and skills from the comfort of their own homes while making a tremendous impact on the lives of others as well as their own. It is the hope of this measure to showcase not disabilities, but people's different abilities with the end goal of achieving a more inclusive Filipino society.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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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.* - The Act shall be known as the “Online Volunteerism for Persons with Disabilities Act”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes the role of persons with disabilities in nation-building and community development. Thus, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to encourage and promote volunteerism while ensuring the inclusivity of persons with disabilities in nation-building.

SECTION 3. *Definitions* - For the purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a) ‘*Governmental entity*’ shall refer to any branch, office, or instrumentality of government;
- b) ‘*Non-profit organization*’ shall refer to any organization, which is organized and conducted for public benefit, operated primarily for charitable, religious, educational, professional, cultural, fraternal, literary, scientific, social welfare, civic service, or similar purposes, and not for profit;

- c) '*Online volunteerism*' shall refer to advocacy groups established online with an agenda to commit their time and energy for the well-being of others with an extraordinary opportunity to put their skills to serve via the internet;
- d) '*Persons with disabilities*' shall be defined as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities;
- e) '*Volunteer*' shall refer to an Individual performing volunteer services who does not receive compensation or any other thing in lieu of compensation, other than reasonable reimbursement or allowance for expenses actually incurred; and
- f) '*Volunteer services*' shall refer to services rendered by a volunteer for a governmental entity and non-profit organization.

SECTION 4. *Online Volunteerism Program for Persons with Disabilities.* –

The National Council for Disability Affairs, in cooperation with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency, shall establish an Online Volunteerism Program for Persons with Disabilities where both government entities and non-government organizations can provide opportunities and humanitarian activities for the capacity development of differently-abled persons through registered web platforms.

SECTION 5. *Selection and Supervision of Online Volunteers with Disabilities* —

The NCDA, in cooperation with its partner government entities and non-government organizations, shall exercise due diligence in the selection and supervision, including training of online volunteers with disabilities to perform their volunteer tasks and services.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* –

The NCDA, the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency, in consultation with relevant governmental entities, non-government organizations and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 7. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,