

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11068**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Persons with disabilities continue to face significant barriers to full and effective participation in society. Beyond the challenges arising from their impairments, many persons with disabilities incur additional costs for transportation, personal assistance, medicines, rehabilitation, assistive devices and technologies, education, communication, and other disability-related needs. These additional costs can increase household expenses, limit opportunities for education and employment, and contribute to poverty, exclusion, and inequality.

While existing laws and social protection programs provide important benefits and assistance to persons with disabilities, these measures do not always adequately address the recurring extra costs associated with disability. There is therefore a need for a targeted and disability-responsive social protection measure that directly assists persons with disabilities in meeting such costs and supports their independent living, economic security, and full participation in society.

This measure seeks to establish a National Disability Support Allowance Program (DSAP) that will provide a regular Disability Support Allowance of at least Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) per month to eligible persons with disabilities. The allowance shall be periodically reviewed and adjusted to preserve its purchasing power and shall complement, rather than replace or diminish, existing benefits and privileges granted under other laws.

The proposed measure adopts a phased implementation to ensure that the Program can be progressively expanded in accordance with available resources and administrative capacity. The initial phase prioritizes children with disabilities and adults with significant disabilities, followed by persons with moderate disabilities and, ultimately, other eligible persons with disabilities who incur disability-related extra costs.

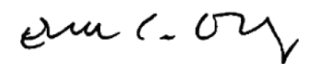
Eligibility shall be determined through a Disability and Needs Assessment System (DNAS) that takes into account functional limitations, support requirements, disability-related extra costs, and barriers to participation. The measure further seeks to improve coordination and data management among relevant government agencies through a Disability Management Information System (DMIS), while ensuring compliance with applicable data privacy and information security laws.

The measure also strengthens accessibility in the application and payment of benefits, establishes a clear appeal and grievance mechanism, provides safeguards against fraudulent registration and misuse of benefits, and requires regular monitoring and periodic evaluation of the Program.

This bill is filed as the House counterpart measure to Senate Bill No. 2386, which seeks to establish a National Disability Support Allowance Program for persons with disabilities. While maintaining the core objectives and framework of the Senate measure, this proposed House version further clarifies the coverage and phased implementation, strengthens eligibility and assessment procedures, protects existing benefits, improves payment and appeal mechanisms, reinforces data privacy safeguards, and promotes greater accountability and transparency in implementation.

The enactment of this measure will strengthen the country's social protection framework for persons with disabilities and affirm the State's commitment to ensuring that disability-related costs do not become a barrier to dignity, independence, equal participation, and full inclusion in society.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL DISABILITY SUPPORT
ALLOWANCE PROGRAM AS A SOCIAL PROTECTION AND
SUPPORT MEASURE TO PROMOTE THE INDEPENDENT
LIVING, EMPOWERMENT, EQUAL PARTICIPATION, AND FULL
INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOCIETY,
PROVIDING FOR A REGULAR DISABILITY SUPPORT
ALLOWANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

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

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

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of
the State to uphold the dignity, autonomy, and rights of persons with
disabilities and to ensure their full and effective participation in society on an
equal basis with others.

In accordance with Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known
as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," the State recognizes persons
with disabilities as part of human diversity and affirms its duty to promote
their rehabilitation, self-development, self-reliance, and integration into the
mainstream of society.

The State further recognizes that persons with disabilities incur
additional economic costs arising from disability-related needs and barriers,
which, if left unaddressed, contribute to poverty, exclusion, and inequality. In
pursuit of social justice and equity, the State shall adopt appropriate, targeted,
and disability-responsive social protection measures to mitigate the impact of
such costs and to promote independent living, well-being, and economic
security.

Towards this end, the State shall adopt an inclusive and disability-responsive social protection framework that provides direct financial support to address disability-related extra costs.

The Disability Support Allowance established under this Act shall complement, and shall not diminish, replace, or otherwise adversely affect, any benefit, pension, subsidy, discount, privilege, service, or assistance to which persons with disabilities are entitled under existing laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:

- (a) **Barriers** refer to any factor that hinders or limits persons with disabilities from enjoying or exercising, on an equal basis with others, their human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field. These may include, but are not limited to, inaccessible physical environments, transportation, and infrastructure; the lack or unavailability of assistive devices and technologies; inaccessible information and communication in form and content; non-inclusive or non-adaptive means of communication; gaps in services, including the absence of personal assistance and sign language interpretation; discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation; negative attitudes, prejudice, and stigma; and programs, policies, and laws that restrict or fail to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (b) **Children with Disabilities** refer to children below eighteen (18) years of age who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with other children;
- (c) **Disability** refers to an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions arising from the interaction between an individual and contextual factors;
- (d) **Disability and Needs Assessment System** refers to the standardized system and process for determining eligibility for support under this Act, based on an individual's functional limitations, support requirements, disability-related extra costs, and the barriers that restrict full and effective participation in society;
- (e) **Disability-related extra costs** refer to the additional direct and indirect costs borne by persons with disabilities, arising from disability-specific needs and from environmental, institutional, and attitudinal barriers,

including the lack of accessibility and reasonable accommodation. Consistent with international frameworks, these costs include expenditures for assistive technologies, support services, personal assistance, disability-related healthcare, and higher costs of housing and transportation, as well as foregone income or productivity losses by persons with disabilities or their caregivers, contributing to heightened risks of poverty, exclusion, and restricted participation;

- (f) **Disability Support Allowance** refers to the regular monetary amount or stipend received by qualified or eligible persons with disabilities under the Disability Support Allowance Program. This allowance is established to supplement and complement existing social protection measures, aiming to address economic hardships and disability-related extra costs regardless of the beneficiary's age or income level, thereby facilitating their greater independence and full inclusion in society;
- (g) **Diversity** refers to the wide variety of identities and backgrounds manifested in differences in physical, mental, intellectual, and sensory conditions, age, sex, gender, language, ethnic, indigenous, or social origin, health status, and other personal or social characteristics. It recognizes disability as a natural and integral part of human diversity and affirms that all individuals, regardless of functioning, possess equal rights and inherent dignity;
- (h) **Learners with Disabilities** refer to learners in the basic, alternative, and higher education system who require additional support and related services and adaptive pedagogic methods due to their long or short-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others to develop them to their maximum capability;
- (i) **Multi-Stakeholder Committee (MSC)** refers to the cross-sectoral body established under this Act to facilitate coordination among relevant government agencies, local government units, organizations of persons with disabilities, and other stakeholders, in the implementation and monitoring of this Act;
- (j) **Neurodiversity** refers to the natural variation in the human brain and mind, recognizing neurological conditions such as, but not limited to, autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) as part of the spectrum of human diversity rather than as pathologized impairments. It emphasizes neuro-affirming support and accommodations that highlight the strengths and rights of neurodivergent individuals;

- (k) **Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)** refers to an organization led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities with a clear majority of their membership being persons with disabilities themselves and promoting the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities. OPDs include, but are not limited to, community, local or national organizations of women with disabilities, impairment-specific organizations such as national organizations of persons with psychosocial disability, children and youth organizations of persons with disabilities, parents representing children with disabilities, cross-disability organizations, specific health conditions recognized under Philippine law such as patients and survivors of cancer, persons with rare diseases, and all other organizations of persons with disabilities as recognized under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (l) **Persons with Disabilities** refer to those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;
- (m) **Reasonable accommodations** refer to the necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments so as not to impose disproportionate or undue burden, and to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy or exercise on an equal basis all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (n) **Users** refer to persons with disabilities eligible for the Disability Support Allowance Program; and
- (o) **Eligible Beneficiary** refers to a person with disability who has been determined, through the Disability and Needs Assessment System and applicable eligibility criteria, to be entitled to receive the Disability Support Allowance under this Act.

SECTION 4. Disability Support Allowance Program (DSAP). - The DSAP shall provide individual support allowances to qualified persons with disabilities, as determined by the Eligibility Determination Mechanism to be developed by the Multi-Stakeholder Committee (MSC).

The support allowance shall help cover disability-related expenses, including transportation augmentation, food and nutrition, disability support services requiring human assistance, maintenance medicines, mental and psychosocial support, rehabilitation services, educational and learning needs, assistive devices, technologies and support equipment, pre-employment and employment-related services, and access to government assistance and services.

The DSAP shall provide a regular stipend to persons with disabilities. The amount of Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) per month per eligible beneficiary is hereby established as the minimum Disability Support Allowance and shall be periodically adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index as published by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), without prejudice to any increase authorized by law or appropriations.

The allowance shall complement existing social protection programs and statutory benefits to help address higher costs associated with transportation, housing, nutrition, hygiene, and temporary human assistance requirements. For working-age adults who are out of work, the allowance shall provide basic income security and help cover disability-related extra costs associated with seeking and retaining work or employment.

The receipt of the Disability Support Allowance shall not, by itself, result in the reduction, suspension, termination, or denial of any existing benefit, pension, subsidy, discount, privilege, or social protection assistance to which the beneficiary is otherwise entitled under existing law.

The Program shall be implemented in three (3) phases starting with the existing master list of local government units (LGUs) of qualified persons with disabilities who already have the Persons with Disability (PWD) identification cards:

(a) **Phase 1** – The initial phase of the DSAP, to be implemented in the first three (3) years, shall prioritize provision of stipends to eligible persons with disabilities based on the criteria to be formulated by the MSC:

1. Children with disabilities; and
2. Adults with significant disability.

(b) **Phase 2** – The second phase of the Program, to be implemented in the next three (3) years, shall include all persons with moderate disabilities who incur disability-related extra costs necessary for participation in social and economic activities including participation in the labor market.

(c) **Phase 3** – All persons with disabilities who incur disability-related extra costs not otherwise covered, and who are determined eligible under the prescribed criteria, shall be entitled to the corresponding benefits.

The phased implementation under this Section shall determine the order and priority of enrollment and shall not be construed to permanently exclude any person with disability otherwise covered by this Act. The DSWD may accelerate the implementation of any phase when sufficient appropriations, administrative capacity, and validated beneficiary data are available.

SECTION 5. Coverage. - All persons with disabilities who incur disability-related extra costs, 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 significant barriers and disability-related extra costs.

SECTION 6. Appeal Mechanism. - The implementing agencies, together with the MSC, shall formulate and incorporate a clear, accessible, and timely appeal mechanism within the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act.

This mechanism shall outline the explicit procedures, timelines, and responsible desks for individuals seeking to contest or appeal any decision, eligibility status, or assessment result arising from the Disability and Needs Assessment System (DNAS) and the Disability Management Information System (DMIS).

The appeal mechanism shall provide the applicant or beneficiary with written notice of the decision and the reasons therefor, accessible procedures for filing an appeal, reasonable accommodation when necessary, and review by an officer or body independent of the original determination, whenever practicable.

No application or appeal fee shall be charged to any person seeking benefits under this Act.

The filing or pendency of an appeal shall not, when warranted by the circumstances, result in the automatic termination of an existing allowance pending final resolution of the appeal, subject to rules and safeguards to be provided in the IRR.

SECTION 7. Eligibility. - In determining eligibility to avail of the DSAP, the DNAS shall be developed and established, 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 DSAP shall be compatible with eligibility and benefits under existing social protection and economic empowerment programs, with the DSAP serving as a top-up to help subsidize disability-related extra costs: Provided, That the MSC may, in its discretion, adopt additional bases or mechanisms to achieve the objectives of this Act.

Eligibility shall not be denied solely on the basis of age, employment status, income, or receipt of other social protection benefits, unless otherwise expressly provided by law.

The DNAS shall take into account disability-related extra costs, functional limitations, support requirements, and barriers to participation and shall not rely solely on medical diagnosis or income-based criteria.

Where valid and current government records sufficiently establish a person's disability and relevant eligibility information, the person shall not be required to undergo unnecessary or duplicative assessment.

SECTION 8. Lead Agency. - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall be the administrator of the Disability Support Allowance Program.

All applications for availing of the DSAP shall be lodged with the DSWD through the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) or the Focal Person in the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO) in Local Government Units. The DSWD shall establish accessible application channels, including, where practicable, in-person, online, mobile, assisted, and community-based mechanisms, taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. An MSC shall be created to co-develop the DNAS to formally establish the Eligibility Determination Mechanism including the eligibility criteria, implementation strategy plan, monitoring and evaluation mechanism, enhancement of the Disability Management Information System to improve access to programs and services for equal participation, and any other necessary policy or guidelines to effectively implement this Act. The MSC shall be chaired by the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA).

Members of MSC shall be representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Education (DepEd), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), LGUs, National Anti-Poverty Council (NAPC) - Persons with Disabilities Sector, representatives from various organizations of persons with disabilities reflecting a wide diversity of identity and backgrounds, and other relevant stakeholders.

The representation of organizations of persons with disabilities shall be meaningful and shall include, to the extent practicable, representatives of women with disabilities, children and youth with disabilities, persons with physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, intellectual disabilities, psychosocial disabilities, and other disability sectors.

All policies concerning programs and services for persons with disabilities shall be reviewed and enhanced for clarity of operationalization at the local level by the MSC.

The eligibility determination mechanism shall be made accessible, affordable, reliable, timely, disability-responsive, and compliant with applicable data privacy laws and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

SECTION 9. Disability and Needs Assessment System (DNAS). - To effectively implement social protection measures targeting persons with disabilities, the DSWD, in coordination with the NCDA, DOH, DILG, PSA, LGUs, and organizations of persons with disabilities, shall establish and maintain a standardized Disability and Needs Assessment System (DNAS).

The DNAS shall assess functional limitations, support requirements, disability-related extra costs, and barriers to participation for purposes of determining eligibility under this Act.

The DNAS shall provide standardized, transparent, accessible, and non-discriminatory assessment procedures and shall provide reasonable accommodation to persons undergoing assessment.

The DNAS shall, to the maximum extent practicable, recognize valid and current government records and shall avoid unnecessary duplication of medical examinations, certifications, or assessments.

Any reassessment shall be conducted only when required to determine continued eligibility or when there is a material change in the beneficiary's circumstances.

The DNAS shall be distinct from the Disability Management Information System (DMIS), which shall serve primarily as the information-management infrastructure supporting the administration of the Program.

The DSWD shall establish, maintain, and manage the DMIS in coordination with the NCDA, DICT, PSA, LGUs, and other relevant government agencies. The DMIS shall have interlinkages between the DNAS, the Unified ID System, the Community-Based Monitoring System, the National ID System, the Philippine Persons with Disabilities Registry, the DOH Persons with Disability Registry and the PhilHealth Database System through appropriate interoperability mechanisms, subject to applicable data privacy, information security, and cybersecurity laws, to provide disability data and facilitate access to appropriate government programs and services.

Only information necessary and proportionate to the administration, monitoring, evaluation, and delivery of the DSAP shall be collected, processed, retained, or shared.

The DSWD shall coordinate with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) for a secure and interoperable information system that supports evidence-based and responsive policy-making.

SECTION 10. Policy on Persons with Disability Identification Cards.

- The issuance of Persons with Disability Identification Cards pursuant to Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," as amended, along with other relevant laws, administrative issuances and local ordinances, shall include the information necessary to determine eligibility for the DSAP.

A standardized coding system shall likewise be adopted to ensure the efficient and accurate identification of eligible persons with disabilities

No person otherwise qualified to receive the Disability Support Allowance shall be denied solely because of a delay in the issuance, replacement, renewal, or updating of a PWD Identification Card, provided that the person's disability and eligibility may be established through other valid government records or the DNAS.

The use of PWD Identification Card information for purposes of the DSAP shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the "Data Privacy Act of 2012," and other applicable data protection laws.

SECTION 11. Direct Payment of the Disability Support Allowance. -

The DSAP User shall receive their allowance directly and securely through Authorized Government Depository Banks (AGDBs).

In localities where AGDB services are insufficient or unavailable, the payment may be coursed directly, or through an AGDB, by engaging the services of rural banks, thrift banks, cooperative banks, or money remittance institutions duly accredited by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to facilitate the distribution of such payments.

The DSWD shall provide alternative secure payment mechanisms for beneficiaries who do not have access to an AGDB or bank account, particularly beneficiaries in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

No beneficiary shall be required to pay a fee, commission, or other charge as a condition for receiving the Disability Support Allowance.

Where a beneficiary is a minor or is unable, by reason of disability or legal incapacity, to personally receive or manage the allowance, payment may be made to a parent, legal guardian, or duly authorized representative, subject to safeguards prescribed in the IRR.

The DSWD shall establish safeguards to prevent unauthorized withdrawal, diversion, exploitation, or misuse of allowances received on behalf of beneficiaries.

SECTION 12. Fraudulent Registration. - Any person who knowingly and fraudulently submits false or falsified information or documents, makes a material misrepresentation or causes, facilitates, or participates in the registration of a person who is not eligible for inclusion in the DSAP shall be penalized as follows:

(a) Any person with disability, or their parent or relative of any degree of consanguinity or affinity, or any third person found to be deliberately committing any fraudulent act of enrolling a person with disability in the Philippine Registry for Persons with Disabilities when a person is not eligible shall suffer the following:

1. For the first violation, a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) but not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00);
2. For the second and subsequent violations, a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) but not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00);

Provided, that no person shall be penalized under this Section for a mere clerical error, inadvertent omission, or good-faith mistake in an application or registration, in the absence of intent to defraud.

(b) Where the offense is committed in connection with the offender's official functions, profession, business, or operations, the following additional penalties shall apply:

- (1) Public officer or employee – In addition to the applicable fine, the offender shall be subject to suspension or dismissal from service and disqualification from holding public office, without prejudice to other administrative sanctions under applicable laws, rules, and regulations;
- (2) Licensed professional – In addition to the applicable fine, the offender shall be subject to suspension or revocation of their professional license or accreditation by the

appropriate professional or regulatory body, after due notice and hearing; and

- (3) Business, organization, or other entity – The entity shall be subject to a fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00) but not exceeding Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00), and for repeated violations, suspension or revocation of its business permit, license, accreditation, or other authority to operate, after due notice and hearing. Any responsible officer, director, manager, or employee who knowingly authorized, consented to, or participated in the commission of the offense shall likewise be liable under this Section.

The penalties imposed under this Act shall be without prejudice to criminal, civil, or administrative liability under other applicable laws.

SECTION 13. Monitoring. - The DSWD and the NCDA shall convene the MSC to make an annual assessment of the implementation of this Act for the purpose of review and recommendation of additional measures necessary for the attainment of the objectives of this Act.

The annual assessment shall include, among others, the number of applications received, approved, denied, and pending; geographic and beneficiary coverage; payment timeliness; appeals and grievances; implementation costs; reported cases of fraud or irregularity; and measures taken to address implementation gaps.

The DSWD shall publish an annual implementation report in an accessible format, subject to Republic Act No. 10173 and other applicable laws on privacy and confidentiality.

SECTION 14. Periodic Review. - Within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act and every five (5) years thereafter, the NCDA shall conduct a comprehensive performance evaluation of this Act and submit its findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The periodic review shall specifically assess the adequacy of the Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) minimum monthly allowance in relation to inflation, poverty thresholds, disability-related extra costs, transportation and other essential costs, and the purchasing power of beneficiaries.

The review shall likewise assess the effectiveness of the phased implementation and identify measures necessary to accelerate or expand coverage where fiscal and administrative capacity permits.

SECTION 15. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in an annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the DSWD in the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Appropriations for the DSAP shall include, as necessary, funding for:

- (a) Payment of the Disability Support Allowance;
- (b) Development, maintenance, and security of the DNAS and DMIS;
- (c) Beneficiary registration, validation, and assessment;
- (d) Accessible application, payment, and appeal mechanisms;
- (e) Monitoring and evaluation; and
- (f) Other reasonable administrative costs necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

The administrative costs of implementing the DSAP shall not be deducted from or charged against the Disability Support Allowance of beneficiaries.

The DSWD shall maintain a separate accounting of appropriations and expenditures for the DSAP in accordance with applicable budgeting, accounting, auditing, and reporting laws and regulations.

SECTION 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD and the DOH, in consultation with the DILG, PSA, NCDA, DepEd, NAPC- Persons with Disabilities Sector, representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities reflecting a wide diversity of disability sectors and lived experiences, and other relevant stakeholders from government agencies and non-government organizations, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

The IRR shall ensure that no eligibility requirement, procedural requirement, or administrative condition is imposed that is inconsistent with the express provisions of this Act.

The IRR shall provide clear standards for the DNAS, eligibility determination, application and registration, payment, authorized representatives, reassessment, appeals, fraud prevention, data privacy, monitoring, and coordination with existing social protection programs.

The DSWD shall ensure meaningful consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities in the formulation and periodic review of the IRR.

SECTION 17. Suppletory Clause. - The provisions of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," as amended by Republic Act No. 10754 and Republic Act No. 9442, have suppletory effect on the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 18. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 19. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 20. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.