

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6108



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the results of the Census of Population and Housing in 2010, over 1.4 million Filipinos or approximately 1.57% of the whole population have a disability¹. The State recognizes the needs of the differently-abled in the country and have passed Republic Act 7277, or the "Magna Carta for Disabled Persons", in 1992, instituting a national health program for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) and establishing medical rehabilitation centers. This marked a framework for the country to address the health needs and access to basic services of the differently-abled without discrimination.

However, there are still gaps in the program that needs to be addressed, among them the lack of adequate access to health services and facilities for the PWDs and inclusion to the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). While the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons is a step into providing necessary services to those in need, and to raise awareness about the PWDs in the country², there is still a need to strengthen and extend rehabilitation to them.

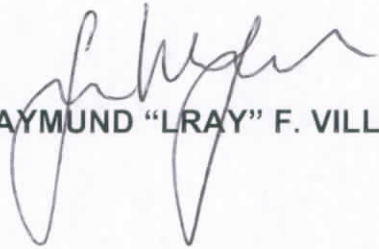
In order to remove the barriers in accessing health services for PWDs, and to affirm the country's commitment to the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of

¹ <http://www.doh.gov.ph/persons-with-disabilities>

² <http://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/76769-fast-facts-benefits-persons-with-disability>

Persons With Disabilities (UN-CRPD)³, the bill proposes an improvement to RA 7277 by automatically enrolling PWDs to the NHIP of PhilHealth. The bill also proposes that the premium contributions for all PWDs be paid for by the National Government. This intends to provide the differently-abled with the same opportunities that everyone else enjoys.

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



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

³ <http://pwag.org/resources/analysis-of-philippine-laws-pertaining-to-disability/philippines-signs-and-ratifies-un-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-un-crpd-shared-by-ms-nelia-de-jesus/>

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL
PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY", AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Title Two, Chapter 8, Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended,
is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 8. Other Privileges and Incentives

"SEC. 32. Persons with disability shall be entitled to the following:

"XXX

"(f) MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE

ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs) SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE
ENROLLED AND COVERED UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM (NHIP) OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
(PHILHEALTH). PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ALL PWDs SHALL BE PAID

BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: *PROVIDED*, THAT, THE PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ALL PWDS SHALL BE PAID BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: *PROVIDED*, THAT, THE PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS OF PWD MEMBERS IN THE FORMAL ECONOMY SHALL BE SHARED EQUALLY BY THEIR EMPLOYERS AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

FUNDS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT OF ALL PWDS SHALL BE SOURCED FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND OF PHILHEALTH, EARMARKED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10351, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERTINENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

THE PHILHEALTH SHALL DEVELOP EXCLUSIVE PACKAGES FOR PWDS THAT WILL ADDRESS THEIR SPECIFIC HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS."

"XXX"

Section 2. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* – The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), the Local Government Units (LGUs), other relevant government agencies and non-government organizations, shall conduct a periodic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Act. Towards this end, the DOH shall maintain an updated database on PWDs and their health and development needs. The LGUs, the PhilHealth, the NCDA, and other relevant government agencies are directed to submit their data on PWDs to the DOH.

Section 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PhilHealth, in consultation with the DOH, the DSWD, the DOLE, the NCDA and the LGUs shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR), within three (3) months upon the effectivity of this Act.

Section 4. *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 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,