

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Senate Bill No. 2314

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION SERVICE NETWORK FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD) THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD) EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE, KEY CITY AND OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS NATIONWIDE

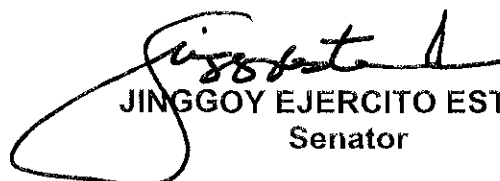
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, specifically Article XIII, Section 3 provides that the State "shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all."

This bill seeks to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and strengthen existing employment facilitation service machinery of the government for persons with disability, particularly at the local levels. It likewise seeks to establish in all capital towns of provinces, key cities and other strategic areas nationwide a 'Persons With Disability Employment Facilitation Office (PWDEFO) which shall be community-based and maintained largely by local government units (LGUs), and a number of non-government organizations (NGOs) or community-based organizations (CBOs).

Said office shall ensure prompt, appropriate and timely employment facilitation service for persons with disability and the provision of relevant information, education and communication (IEC) materials for the benefit of the PWDs seeking for productive employment opportunities.

This measure is a counterpart of a bill filed by Congresswoman Estrellita "Ging" B. Guansing in the House of Representatives. The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator



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AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION SERVICE NETWORK FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD) THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD) EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE, KEY CITY AND OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS NATIONWIDE**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Persons With**  
2 **Disability Employment Facilitation Office (PWDEFO) Act of 2014**”.

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5 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is a declared a policy of the State to promote  
6 employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and strengthen existing  
7 employment facilitation service machinery of the government for persons with  
8 disability, particularly at the local levels.

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11 **SEC. 3. Establishment of the Persons With Disability (PWD) Employment**  
12 **Facilitation Office.** – There is hereby established in all capital towns of provinces,  
13 key cities and other strategic areas, a Persons With Disability (PWD)  
14 Employment Facilitation Office (PWDEFO), hereinafter referred to as  
15 “PWDEFO,” which shall be community-based and maintained largely by local  
16 government units (LGUs) and a number of non-government organizations  
17 (NGOs) or community-based organizations (CBOs).

18  
19 The PWDEFO shall be linked to the regional offices of the Department of Labor  
20 and Employment (DOLE) for coordination and technical supervision, and to the  
21 DOLE Central office, to constitute the national employment service network.

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24 **SEC. 4. Objectives of the PWDEFO.** – The Persons With Disability (PWD)  
25 Employment Facilitation Office shall ensure the prompt, appropriate and timely  
26 employment facilitation service for persons with disability and the provision of  
27 relevant information, education and communication (IEC) materials for the  
28 benefits of the PWDs seeking for productive employment opportunities.

29  
30 Specifically, the PWDEFO shall:

- 1 a) Provide a venue where PWDs could find and explore various employment  
2 options and seek training assistance for possible employment venture;  
3
- 4 b) Serve as a referral and information center for various services and  
5 programs being provided by the DOLE and other government agencies  
6 with respect to the welfare and employment of PWDs;  
7
- 8 c) Provide PWDs with sufficient information on employment opportunities  
9 and labor market situation in the area; and  
10
- 11 d) Network with other PWDEFOs within the province and/or region on  
12 employment opportunities for PWDs.  
13  
14

15 **SEC. 5. Functions of the PWDEFO.** – The PWDEFO shall have the following  
16 functions:

- 17
- 18 a) Encourage employers to submit to the PWDEFO on a regular basis a list  
19 of job vacancies available for persons with disabilities in their respective  
20 establishments in order to facilitate the exchange of labor market  
21 information between PWDs who seek employment and employers by  
22 providing employment information services to PWDs job seekers and  
23 recruitment assistance to employers;  
24
- 25 b) Develop training modules for PWDs in order to improve their skills and  
26 comply with the skills requirements of the employer;  
27
- 28 c) Provide PWDs with access to the various livelihood and self-employment  
29 programs offered by both government and non-government organizations  
30 (NGOs) at the provincial/city/municipal/barangay levels by undertaking  
31 referrals for such programs;  
32
- 33 d) Undertake employability enhancement trainings/seminars for PWDs, as  
34 well as those PWDs who would like to enhance their employability;  
35
- 36 e) Provide occupational counseling, career guidance, mass motivation and  
37 values development activities for PWDs;  
38
- 39 f) Conduct pre-employment counseling and orientation to PWDs;  
40
- 41 g) Provide reintegration assistance services to PWDs who are retrenched or  
42 terminated; and  
43
- 44 h) Perform such functions as willfully carry out the objectives of this Act;  
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46

47 **SEC.6. Other Services of the PWDEFO.** – In addition to the functions  
48 enumerated in the preceding section, every PWDEFO shall also undertake the  
49 following programs and activities:  
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- 51 a) Job Fairs – These shall be conducted periodically all over the country to  
52 bring together in one venue PWD job seekers and employers for  
53 immediate matching;  
54
- 55 b) Livelihood and Self-Employment Bazaars – These will give the PWDs  
56 information on the wide array of livelihood programs they choose to avail  
57 of, particularly in rural areas;

- 1 c) Work Appreciation Program (WAP) – This program aims to develop the  
2 values of work appreciation and ethics by exposing the PWDs to actual  
3 work situations; and  
4  
5 d) Other programs/activities developed by DOLE to enhance provision of  
6 employment assistance to PWDs, particularly for special groups of  
7 disadvantaged workers.  
8  
9

10 **SEC. 7. Role of DOLE and LGUs and NGOs.** – Upon the request of the LGUs  
11 and NGOs which do not have existing PWDEFOS, the establishment, operation  
12 and maintenance of PWDEFOS shall be undertaken by the DOLE. The DOLE  
13 shall enter into memoranda of agreements (MOA) with the concerned LGUs and  
14 NGOs for the establishment, operation and maintenance of PWDEFOS in their  
15 respective areas of jurisdiction, and the institutionalization of existing PWDEFOS.  
16

17 It shall be the responsibility of the DOLE to:

- 18  
19 a) Establish and maintain a computerized PWDs manpower registry of skills  
20 and employment and business opportunities to facilitate the provision and  
21 packaging of employment assistance to PWD clients and the setting-up of  
22 regional job clearance systems as part of the overall employment network;  
23  
24 b) Provide office space, equipment and/or supplies, as well as the necessary  
25 personnel complement to manage, operate and maintain the PWDEFOS;  
26  
27 c) Designate, in consultation with the LGU or NGO concerned, a qualified  
28 project manager and/or key personnel who shall be responsible for the  
29 operation and management of the PWDEFOS;  
30  
31 d) Provide technical assistance and allied support services to the PWDEFOS;  
32  
33 e) Train PWDEFOS personnel in the various aspects of employment  
34 facilitation functions;  
35  
36 f) Extend/facilitate such other package of employment services to the  
37 provision of employment assistance to PWD clients of the LGU or NGO  
38 concerned, including the conduct of job fairs and other activities; and  
39  
40 g) Undertake, monitor, assess and evaluate the PWDEFOS program  
41 implementation.  
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44 **SEC. 8. Administration of the PWDEFOS Program.** - The DOLE shall be primarily  
45 responsible for the administration of the PWDEFOS Program through its Bureau of  
46 Local Employment, as well as its regional offices throughout the country. The  
47 Secretary of Labor and Employment, in coordination with the Department of  
48 Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and  
49 Development (DSWD) and in consultation with the presidents of the various local  
50 government leagues, namely the League of Provinces, the League of Cities, the  
51 League of Municipalities and the League of Barangays, shall accordingly  
52 promulgate, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the necessary  
53 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the Program.

54 **SEC. 9. Conduct of an Annual Nationwide Disability Prevalence Survey.** –  
55 Realizing the need to develop a system of reliable information on disability, the  
56 Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the DOLE and the National

1 Council on the Welfare of Disabled Persons, is hereby mandated to conduct an  
2 annual Nationwide Disability Prevalence Survey.

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4 *The objectives of the Annual Nationwide Disability Prevalence Survey shall*  
5 *include the following:*

- 6  
7 1) To determine the prevalence of disability in the country in general and in  
8 the various regions of the country in particular;
- 9  
10 2) To determine the distribution of disability in the country and the various  
11 regions with respect to age, sex and type of disability; and
- 12  
13 3) To determine the status of rehabilitation and the rehabilitation needs of  
14 PWD in the country.

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17 **SEC. 10. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this  
18 Act shall be charged against the existing appropriation of the DOLE and its other  
19 operating agencies. Thereafter, the amounts needed for the full implementation  
20 of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DOLE in the succeeding General  
21 Appropriations Act.

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24 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be  
25 found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such  
26 declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

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29 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent  
30 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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33 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
34 following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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40 *Approved,*