

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



'14 OCT -9 P1:22

SENATE  
S.B. No. 2428

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

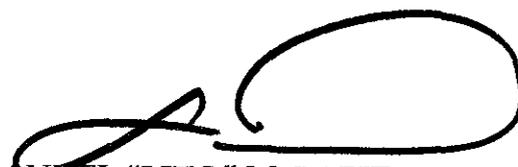
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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING AN ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION CENTER IN EVERY STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In 1992, Republic Act (R.A.) 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons was enacted. This law provides, among others, the right and privileges of disabled persons to education. Nevertheless, more than a decade after R.A. 7277, there is still a need to improve legislation for disabled persons, specifically less privileged disabled persons. A 2009 study on persons with disabilities in Metro Manila found that there is a large variation among persons with disabilities when it comes to income and education. This means that persons with disabilities with lower incomes have a lower level of education. Thus, it is important to provide free auxiliary aids and services for less privileged disabled persons who have the academic capacity to study in state universities and colleges in order to make education accessible and available to them.

This bill aims to address this need by establishing Accessible Education Centers in every state university and college; such centers will not only provide free auxiliary aids and services but will also render the necessary support for all persons with disabilities who are enrolled in these institutions of higher education. This is with the end in view of enabling them to finish their college degrees, and equipping them for better paying jobs. As such, the immediate passage of this bill is therefore requested.

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID  
Senator

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AN ACT  
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UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

1        **SECTION 1. TITLE.** - This act shall be known as the "*Accessible Education*  
2 *Center Act of 2014*"

3  
4        **SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** - The Constitution recognizes the  
5 key role of education in society. As such, the State shall protect and promote the right  
6 of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make  
7 such education accessible to all including persons with disabilities.

8  
9        **SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.** - The following terms used in this Act are,  
10 hereby defined:

- 11        a. A state university or college refers to any public institution of higher learning  
12        that was created by law;
- 13        b. A disabled person refers to one who is suffering from restriction or different  
14        abilities, as a result of a mental, psychological, physical or sensory impairment,  
15        to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a  
16        human being;
- 17        c. An impairment is any loss, diminution, or aberration of psychological,  
18        physiological, or anatomical structure or function;
- 19        d. A disability shall mean

- 1) a physical, mental, or psychological impairment that substantially limits one or more psychological, physiological, or anatomical function of an individual or activities of such individual,
  - 2) a record of such an impairment, or
  - 3) being regarded as having such an impairment;
- e. A qualified disabled student refers to a disabled person who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission and participation in the education program of a state university or college;
- f. Auxiliary aids and services refer to:
- 1) certified sign language interpreters or other effective methods of delivering materials to individuals with hearing impairments;
  - 2) qualified readers, taped tests, or other effective methods of delivering materials to individuals with visual impairments;
  - 3) typists, door-to-door transportation, or other effective methods of delivering materials to individuals with manual impairments;
  - 4) acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, and
  - 5) other similar services and actions, or all types of aids and services that facilitate the learning process of people with disability.
- g. Reasonable accommodation includes:
- 1) Improvement of existing facilities used by students, faculty, and staff in order to render these readily accessible to and usable by qualified disabled students;
  - 2) Modifications to the course program or educational requirements that are necessary and appropriate so that such requirements do not discriminate or have the effect of discriminating on the basis of disability, provided that these modifications do not fundamentally alter the essential nature of a course or academic program;
  - 3) Modifications to university or college policies, rules, and regulations that discriminate or have the effect of discriminating on the basis of ability against qualified disabled students;
  - 4) Adjustment of class schedules, acquisition or alteration of equipment or devices, appropriate adjustments or modifications of examinations, class materials, and the provision of auxiliary aids and services, and other similar accommodations for qualified disabled students.

1       **SECTION 4. ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION CENTER.** - There shall be established an  
2 accessible education center in every state university and college. The accessible  
3 education center shall:

- 4       a. Review existing infrastructure, academic and non-academic policies, rules and  
5       regulations to see if it discriminates or have the effect of discriminating on the  
6       basis of ability against qualified disabled students;
- 7       b. Submit the aforementioned review as well as recommendations to the proper  
8       university or college official or office for appropriate action in order to improve  
9       infrastructure, academic and non-academic policies, rules and regulations to  
10      cater to qualified disabled students;
- 11      c. Inform and train teachers and staff regularly on academic and non-academic  
12      policies, rules and regulations, reasonable accommodation, and auxiliary aids  
13      and services for qualified disabled students;
- 14      d. Provide auxiliary aids and services to qualified disabled students such as but not  
15      limited to certified sign language interpreters, qualified readers, note-takers,  
16      Brailled or large print materials, mobility training for students with visual  
17      impairments, typists for students with manual impairments, and door-to-door  
18      transportation, for the purpose of attending lecture and laboratory classes, taking  
19      examinations, taking part in activities outside the classroom that are required for  
20      the course, and meeting professors for academic purposes;
- 21      e. Determine at the start of every academic year the number of qualified disabled  
22      students, and coordinate and customize the number of resources offered by the  
23      center to accommodate a wide range of disabilities, specifically the disabilities of  
24      qualified disabled students;
- 25      f. Receive complaints on discrimination against qualified disabled students by  
26      faculty, staff, and students, and refer these complaints to the proper university or  
27      college official or office for appropriate action;
- 28      g. Conduct regular consultations with qualified disabled students, faculty, staff and  
29      students on how to improve reasonable accommodation, infrastructure, and  
30      services for qualified disabled students;

31  
32       **SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** - The Commission  
33 on Higher Education and the National Council on Disability Affairs shall jointly  
34 promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions under this law.

1       **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATIONS.** - The amount necessary to carry out the  
2 provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year  
3 following its enactment into law and thereafter.

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5       **SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** - Should any provisions of this Act be  
6 found unconstitutional by a court of law, such provisions shall be severed from the  
7 remainder of this Act, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the  
8 remaining provisions of this Act.

9  
10       **SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE.** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive  
11 orders and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
12 repealed or modified accordingly.

13  
14       **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
15 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general  
16 circulation.

*Approved,*