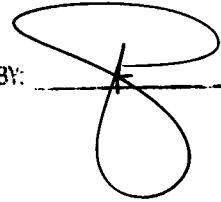


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE** )  
**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES** )  
*Second Regular Session* )

23 OCT 17 P5:22

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**SENATE**

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**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 154**

Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance on **OCT 17 2023**

Re: Senate Bill No. **2467**

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 31, 501, and 592

Sponsor: **Senator Imee Marcos**

---

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance, to which were referred **Senate Bill No. 31**, introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" Lapid, and Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE SOCIAL PENSION OF INDIGENT PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

**Senate Bill No. 501**, introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND FOR THE  
EMPOWERMENT, FULL PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION OF**

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOCIETY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

and **Senate Bil No. 592**, introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE UNIVERSAL DISABILITY SUPPORT ALLOWANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

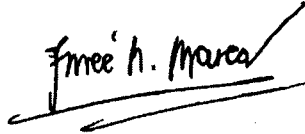
have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached **Senate Bill No. 2467** entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND FOR THE EMPOWERMENT, FULL PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOCIETY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 31, 501, and 592, with Senators Lapid, Revilla, Jr., Hontiveros, Marcos, and Dela Rosa as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons:



**SEN. SONNY ANGARA**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. IMEE R. MARCOS**  
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and  
Rural Development  
Senior Vice-Chairperson, Committee on  
Finance

Vice-Chairpersons:

**SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO**  
Senior Vice-Chairperson  
Committee on Finance

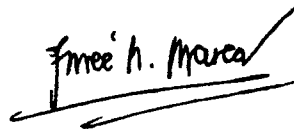
**SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development

**SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**  
Vice-Chairperson  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development

**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development

Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons:



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Committee on Finance

**SEN. IMEE R. MARCOS**  
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and  
Rural Development  
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Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development

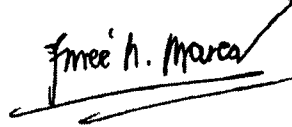


**SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**  
Vice-Chairperson  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development

**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development

Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons:



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Committee on Finance

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Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and  
Rural Development  
Senior Vice-Chairperson, Committee on  
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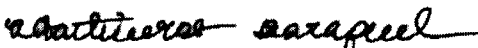
Vice-Chairpersons:



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Senior Vice-Chairperson  
Committee on Finance


**SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**  
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Vice- Chairperson  
Committee on Finance  
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Welfare and Rural Development




**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development

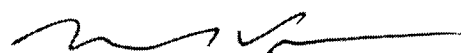
**SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**  
Committee on Finance



**SEN. CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE T. GO**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development



**SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S.  
BINAY**  
Committee on Finance

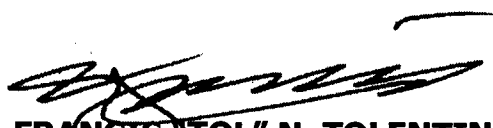


**SEN. MARK VILLAR**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development



**SEN. GRACE POE**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development



**SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**  
Committee on Finance

Members:

**SEN. ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**  
Committee on Finance

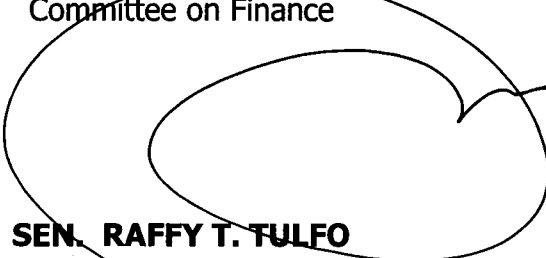
**SEN. ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA**  
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and  
Rural Development  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.**  
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare, and  
Rural Development  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Committee on Finance


A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Raffy T. Tulfo". The signature is written in a cursive, looping style and is positioned over the text of the Senator's name and committee.


**SEN. RAFFY T. TULFO**  
Committee on Finance

Members:


**SEN. ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA**  
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and  
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Committee on Social Justice, Welfare, and  
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Committee on Finance

  
**SEN. MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. RAFFY T. TULFO**  
Committee on Finance



Ex-Officio Members

**SEN. LOREN LEGARDA**  
President Pro Tempore  
Senior Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance

**“will interpellate”**

  
**SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA**  
Majority Leader

  
**SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO"**  
**PIMENTEL III**  
Minority Leader

**HON. JUAN MIGUEL "MIGZ" F. ZUBIRI**  
Senate President

Ex-Officio Members



**SEN. LOREN LEGARDA**  
President Pro Tempore  
Senior Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance

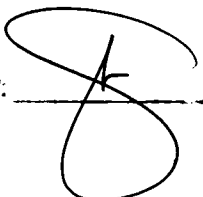
**SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA**  
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PIMENTEL III**  
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**HON. JUAN MIGUEL "MIGZ" F. ZUBIRI**  
Senate President

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NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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Second Regular Session )

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. NO. 2467

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 31, 501, and 592)

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*Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare, and Rural Development; and Finance with Senators Lapid, Revilla Jr., Hontiveros, Marcos and Dela Rosa as authors thereof*

---

**AN ACT**

**ESTABLISHING THE DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND FOR THE EMPOWERMENT, FULL PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOCIETY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

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

2 Sec. 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* - The Philippines, as a State Party to the  
3 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD),  
4 recognizes all the rights of persons with disabilities and shall take effective and  
5 appropriate measures to respect, protect, and fulfill the full enjoyment by persons with  
6 disabilities of these rights such as, but not limited to, access to habilitation and  
7 rehabilitation services, participation in socio-economic activities, access to a range of in-  
8 home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance,  
9 learning and assistive devices, and technology necessary to support living independently  
10 and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the  
11 community.

12 It is the declared policy of the State to adopt the generally-accepted principles of  
13 international law as part of the law of the land. It is likewise vital that the State advance

1 social justice in order to end poverty in all its forms, particularly the historical deprivation  
2 of the support required by persons with disabilities for their effective inclusion and full  
3 participation in society.

4 To attain a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and  
5 independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that  
6 provide adequate social services, promote full employment, raises the standard of living,  
7 and improve the quality of life, appropriate measures in developing social protection  
8 programs and allowances that recognize the additional costs associated with disability  
9 shall be undertaken.

10 Towards this end, the State shall establish a Disability Support Fund to augment  
11 local government units' assistance for their disability-specific and mainstreamed  
12 programs and services, targeting persons with disabilities to support their need to access  
13 services and new skills, leading to social and economic productivity and allowing them  
14 to gain greater independence and become contributing members in nation-building.

15 In pursuit of these ends, disability support assistance shall be extended to  
16 indigent persons with disabilities to cover part of the disability-related extra costs  
17 generated by their disability-specific needs and barriers resulting from inaccessibility of  
18 facilities and services.

19 *Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. -*

20 a) "Disability" is an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and  
21 participation restrictions, referring to the negative aspects of interaction  
22 between an individual with health condition and contextual factors.

23 b) "Barriers" are anything that hinders persons with disabilities from enjoying or  
24 exercising all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political,  
25 economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field, on an equal basis with  
26 others. Barriers in all its forms encompass inaccessible physical environments  
27 and transportation; the unavailability of assistive devices and technologies;  
28 inaccessible information both in form and content; nonadaptive means of  
29 communication; gaps in service delivery such as unavailability of personal  
30 assistance and sign language interpretation service; discrimination including

1 denial of reasonable accommodation; attitude, prejudice, and stigma in  
2 society; programs, policies, and laws infringing on the rights of persons with  
3 disabilities as recognized under the  
4 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

5 c) "Indigent" as used in this Act, is a person with disability whose income is  
6 insufficient for maintenance medications, treatments, and other disability-  
7 related extra costs, as identified based on specific criteria to be formulated by  
8 the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National  
9 Council of Disability Affairs (NCDA), and representatives from national  
10 organizations of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the guiding  
11 principles set forth in Section 2;

12 d) "Impairment" is the description of body structures that are diminished,  
13 weakened or damaged. Impairments can be divided into primary and  
14 secondary:

15 1. Primary impairments are motor behaviors that are directly related to  
16 changes in any system. Examples: muscle tone, postural stability,  
17 motor coordination. Primary impairments are any impairments that are  
18 present at birth such as heart defects, endocrine diagnoses, visual  
19 impairments.

20 2. Secondary impairments develop over time and frequently as a result of  
21 the primary impairments. Examples: Decreased range of motion, force  
22 production and endurance;

23 e) "Persons with Disability" include those who have long-term physical, mental,  
24 intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers  
25 may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis  
26 with others;

27 f) "Community Support Systems" refers to the combination of services, products,  
28 and people that assist persons with disabilities to carry out daily life activities  
29 and participate in their communities;

1 g) "Disability and Needs Assessment" refers to the process by which disability of  
2 an individual is officially recognized for the purpose of eligibility determination  
3 to diverse entitlements. It is based on a human rights model of disability, with  
4 a focus on functional limitations, support requirements and barriers restricting  
5 participation;

6 Persons who may fall in this definition are all other persons under the  
7 disability assessment and determination system issued by the Persons with  
8 Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) which will be developed under this law and  
9 shall also be used in the issuance of the persons with disability ID;

10 h) "Reasonable Accommodation" means the necessary and appropriate  
11 modification and adjustments so as not to impose disproportionate or undue  
12 burden, and to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy or exercise on an  
13 equal basis all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

14 i) "Rehabilitation" refers to re-gaining skills, abilities or knowledge that may have  
15 been lost or compromised as a result of acquiring a disability, or due to a  
16 change in one's disability or circumstances. Rehabilitation means restoring  
17 capacity and ability. This generally applies to an adult who has to re-adapt to  
18 society after acquiring a disability;

19 j) "Habilitation" refers to a process aimed at helping people gain certain new  
20 skills, abilities, and knowledge. Habilitation involves learning skills that will  
21 enable a person to function in society. These kinds of programmes usually  
22 target children born with disabilities;

23 k) "Progressive Realization" means undertaking measures to the maximum of its  
24 available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international  
25 cooperation, with a view of achieving progressively the full realization of these  
26 rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the Convention on  
27 the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that are immediately applicable  
28 according to international law;

29 l) "Reasonable accommodation" means necessary and appropriate modification  
30 and adjustments so as not to impose disproportionate or undue burden, and

1 to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy or exercise on an equal basis all  
2 human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3 m) "Disability-related extra costs" are the expenses subjected to a person with  
4 disability based on disability-specific needs and barriers resulting from  
5 inaccessibility of facilities and services. Refers to the direct (e.g., buying  
6 assistive device or paying for personal assistance or sign language  
7 interpretation service, or extra health care like medicines, more expensive  
8 housing or transportation service, etc.) and indirect (e.g., loss productivity  
9 because of longer travel time such as experienced by those who uses  
10 wheelchair who need to travel by wheelchair because they cannot use the  
11 cheaper public transport, family members who stop working to provide care  
12 and support to persons with disabilities, etc.) costs as a result of their disability  
13 that drives persons with disabilities in situation of poverty, exposure to  
14 vulnerability of exclusion or restriction to participation";

15 n) "Children with Disabilities" include those individuals under the age of eighteen  
16 (18) who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments  
17 which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective  
18 participation in society on an equal basis";

19 o) "Disability-related needs" include disability-related medical supplies (e.g.,  
20 medicines, catheters, diapers), medical-related services (e.g., rehabilitation  
21 services, etc.) assistive products, personal assistance, sign language  
22 interpreter, higher cost of accessing services because of lack of accessibility  
23 (e.g., transportation cost), and others; and

24 p) "Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) are led, directed and governed  
25 by persons with disabilities with a clear majority of their membership being  
26 recruited among persons with disabilities themselves. Examples of OPDs  
27 include national organizations of women with disabilities, impairment-specific  
28 organizations such as national organizations of persons of psychosocial  
29 disability, parents representing children with disabilities, cross-disability  
30 organizations, specific health conditions recognized under the Philippine law

1 such as patients and survivor of cancer, persons with rare diseases, and all  
2 other organizations of persons with disabilities as recognized under the  
3 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.”

4 **Sec. 4. *Disability Support Fund.*** - The Disability Support Fund aims to address the  
5 gaps in the program implementation currently undertaken at the national and at the  
6 local level through programs and projects of the local government and civil society  
7 organizations. Local government units and accredited non-government organizations will  
8 also be assisted through funding to establish responsive services supporting independent  
9 living of persons with disabilities.

10 The Disability Support Fund shall provide individuals with disabilities the  
11 opportunity to avail of disability related services and have access to government  
12 assistance and services for all. The Disability Support Fund shall have the following  
13 components, such as, but not limited to the following:

- 14 1. Local Government Unit Establishing a Comprehensive Disability Support  
15 Services through Provincial, City and Municipal Persons with Disabilities Affairs  
16 Office;
- 17 2. Development of affordable and accessible Disability Support Services managed  
18 by organizations of persons with disabilities; and
- 19 3. Individual Support Allowance for qualified persons with disabilities, identified  
20 by the National Disability Assessment and Determination System which shall  
21 be developed by a Technical Working Group led by the DSWD, DOH, DEPED,  
22 and the DOLE with diverse representations from Organizations of Persons with  
23 Disabilities.

24 This support shall cover expenses related to disability such as, but not limited to,  
25 augmentation to transportation services, food and nutrition, disability support services  
26 provided by human interventions, maintenance medicines, rehabilitation services,  
27 educational needs, such as but not limited to assistive devices, technology and support  
28 equipment, pre-employment and during employment services and access to  
29 government assistance and services for all.



1           The Disability Support Fund shall aim to provide a regular stipend to indigent  
2 persons with disabilities based on the eligibility criteria to be formulated by the DSWD,  
3 the NCDA and representatives from national organizations of persons with disabilities.  
4 The initial amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) a month per individual  
5 beneficiary is set for the Disability Support Fund, which will be indexed to inflation to  
6 preserve its positive impact on the standards of living and participation of people with  
7 disabilities. This would contribute, in combination with existing social protection programs  
8 and discounts to address the higher cost of transportation, housing, nutrition, hygiene  
9 and temporary human assistance requirements, among others. For working age adults  
10 out of work, it will provide a basic income security and will help cover disability related  
11 costs for finding and keeping work.

12           The Program shall be implemented in two (2) phases starting with the existing  
13 master list of LGUs who already have the ID:

14           a) Phase 1 - The initial phase of the Disability Support Fund Program, to be  
15 implemented in the first three (3) years, shall prioritize provision of stipends  
16 to:

- 17           i. Children with disabilities;
- 18           ii. Adults with moderate and severe disability, who are facing the highest  
19 barriers and disability-related costs; and
- 20           iii. Persons with disabilities who are recipients of social protection and  
21 economic empowerment programs such as but not limited to the Social  
22 Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens.

23           b) Phase 2 - The second phase of the Program, to be implemented in the next  
24 three (3) years, shall include all persons with disabilities certified as indigent  
25 by the DSWD, based on the eligibility criteria to be formulated under this Act.

26           Provided, That the abovementioned programs and services on  
27 counseling, capability-building of social workers, both local and national, and  
28 provision of assistive equipment and devices, such as wheelchairs, and  
29 prosthetic devices, among others, may be given in addition to the  
30 abovementioned Program to indigent persons with disabilities.

1           Sec. 5. *Coverage.* - All indigent persons with disabilities, as certified by the DSWD,  
2 based on a human rights approach, shall be covered by the provisions of this Act. Priority  
3 shall initially be given to children with disabilities and adults with significant disabilities  
4 who are facing the highest barriers and disability-related costs.

5           However, the aim is to eventually cover all registered persons with disabilities  
6 who have either no income or have low levels of income as well as persons with  
7 disabilities who face disability-related extra costs that deprive them of an adequate  
8 standard of living.

9           Sec. 6. *Eligibility.* - In determining eligibility to avail of the Disability Support  
10 Fund, the Disability and Needs Assessment System shall be considered, with a focus  
11 on functional limitations, support requirements, and barriers to participation.

12           In recognition of the multiple forms of poverty and the extent of disability-related  
13 costs required for basic participation, eligibility of persons with disabilities to avail of  
14 the Disability Support Fund will be compatible, insofar as practicable, with eligibility and  
15 benefits from different social protection and economic empowerment programs such  
16 as, but not limited to, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, the Fund acting  
17 as a top-up for subsidizing disability-related extra costs.

18           Provided, That the DSWD may, in its discretion, adopt additional bases to achieve  
19 the objectives of this Act.

20           Sec. 7. *Role of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).* -  
21 The DSWD shall be the administrator of the Disability Support Fund. All applications for  
22 availing of the Fund shall be lodged with the DSWD. In partnership with the NCDA,  
23 organizations of persons with disabilities, all concerned government agencies, local  
24 government units thru the PDAO, and non-government organizations shall implement  
25 programs and services targeting persons with disabilities.

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

28           Sec. 8. *Disability and Needs Assessment System.* - To effectively implement social  
29 protection measures targeting persons with disabilities, a Disability Data Management  
30 System shall be created and managed by the DSWD, in coordination with the

1 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and shall be linked  
2 to the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) which aid in the development of  
3 poverty-reduction programs from local to the national level. Linkage to the National ID  
4 System, and the DOH Persons with Disability Registry, which is mirrored with the  
5 PhilHealth Database System shall also be done to provide real-time disability data and  
6 subsidized enrolment to PhilHealth insurance.

7 *Sec. 9. Policy on Disability Identification Cards.* - The issuance of Disability  
8 Identification Cards pursuant to Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna  
9 Carta for Persons with Disabilities," as amended, along with other relevant laws,  
10 administrative issuances and local ordinances, shall incorporate the information  
11 necessary for the granting of the monthly Disability Support Fund allocation to eligible  
12 persons with disabilities.

13 *Sec. 10. Penal Provisions.* — The penalties shall apply to the following:

- 14 a. Any Person With Disability, or his/her parent or his/her relative of any degree  
15 of consanguinity or affinity, or any third person found to be deliberately  
16 committing any fraudulent act of enrolling a Person With Disability to the when  
17 a person is not eligible shall suffer the following:
- 18 i. For the first violation, a fine of not less than Twenty-five thousand pesos  
19 (Php 25,000) but not exceeding Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000);
  - 20 ii. For any subsequent violations, a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos  
21 (Php 50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php  
22 100,000.00); and
  - 23 iii. For a third and fourth violation, a revocation of any license or business  
24 permit;
- 25 b. Any person, natural or juridical, violating any provision of this Act and its IRR,  
26 except violations pertaining to Subsection a of this Section, shall be penalized  
27 with a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) but not  
28 exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00). If the violator is a  
29 corporation, organization or any similar juridical entity, the officials directly  
30 involved and responsible shall be liable therefor.

1           Sec. 11. *Monitoring.* - The DSWD, in collaboration with representatives of the  
2 Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, is hereby tasked to convene an Inter-Agency  
3 Committee to make an annual assessment of the implementation of this Act.

4           Sec. 12. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this  
5 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations of the DSWD in the year  
6 following its enactment into law and thereafter. The allocated budget shall gradually  
7 increase in fulfillment of the progressive realization principle.

8           Sec. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within one hundred and twenty  
9 (120) days from the affectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and  
10 Development (DSWD), in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local  
11 Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA),  
12 National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA), National Anti-Poverty Council (NAPC),  
13 representative/s from registered Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, and other  
14 relevant stakeholders from government agencies and non-government organizations,  
15 shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

16           Sec. 14. *Report to Congress.* - The DSWD shall annually submit a report to  
17 Congress on the status of the implementation of this Act for the purpose of review and  
18 recommendation of additional measures necessary for the attainment of the objectives  
19 of this Act.

20           Sec. 15. *Suppletory Clause.* — The provisions of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise  
21 known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," as amended by Republic Act  
22 No. 10754 and Republic Act No. 9442, have suppletory effect to the provisions of this  
23 Act.

24           Sec. 16. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
25 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
26 remain valid and in effect.

27           Sec. 17. *Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
28 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or  
29 inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended  
30 accordingly.

1            **Sec. 18. *Effectivity Clause.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3            **Adopted,**