

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session

2016

SENATE
S.B. No. 2323

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 13 Article XIII of the Constitution recognizes the significance of persons with disabilities in Philippine society. It provides the mandate for the establishment of a special agency for their rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance, and integration into the mainstream of society.

Persons with disabilities are a country's important endowments. Their rights and privileges must be protected and equal opportunities must be afforded to them to develop their abilities in all fields of human endeavor. Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as "*An Act Providing For The Rehabilitation, Self-Development And Self-Reliance Of Disabled Persons And Their Integration Into The Mainstream Of Society And For Other Purposes*", was enacted to ensure that they are provided access to employment opportunities, quality education, health and social services, among others, for them to attain their fullest potential and become active participants in nation building.

This bill seeks to further improve the welfare of persons with disabilities through the creation of a Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office in every province, city and municipality to ensure that they are adequately supported and protected.

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



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator

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AN ACT
CREATING THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AFFAIRS OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AMENDING SECTION 40 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REHABILITATION, SELF-DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE OF DISABLED PERSONS AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF SOCIETY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Section 40 of Republic Act No. 7277 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 40. Role of National Agencies and Local Government Units. -

- (A) Local government units shall promote the establishment of organizations of [disabled persons] **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)** in their respective territorial jurisdictions. National agencies and local government units may enter into joint ventures with organizations or associations of [disabled persons] **PWDs** to explore livelihood opportunities and other undertakings that shall enhance the health, physical fitness and economic social well-being of [disabled persons] **PWDs**.

(B) IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO ENSURE THAT THE AGENCIES CONCERNED SHALL EXTEND THE SERVICES PROVIDED IN THIS ACT TO PWDs BY CREATING THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AFFAIRS OFFICE (PDAO) IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY."

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the *Official Gazette*, whichever comes first.

Approved,