

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

8 JUL 21 P3:33

SENATE  
S. No. 2455

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

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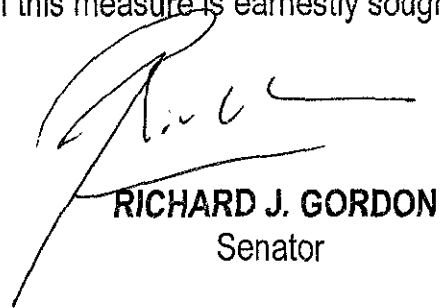
### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "**Magna Carta for Disabled Persons,**" strives to provide persons with disabilities (PWDs) with access to employment opportunities and quality education, health and social services, among others, for them to attain their fullest potential and become active partners in nation building. The benefits provided under this law are laudable, yet even as it recognizes that PWDs are entitled to the same rights and privileges as ordinary citizens, *no less than* Section 13, Article XIII of the Philippine Constitution provides for the creation of a special agency for disabled persons in order to ensure their rehabilitation, self-development, self-reliance and integration into the mainstream of society. Clearly, this constitutional mandate has not been upheld.

The World Health Organization estimates that 10% of the total population or 8.4 million Filipinos have physical, sensory or mental impairments. Seventeen percent or 1.4 million Filipinos are orthopedically impaired while 18% or 1.5 million Filipinos are visually impaired. These figures should not mask the hidden resource well within our fellow Filipinos who are classified as PWDs. According to the Commission on Higher Education, about five percent of PWDs receive up to secondary education, and about one percent graduate from college.

With the goal of amplifying the benefits provided under the Magna Carta, this bill seeks to integrate persons with disabilities into the mainstream of society and to further improve their welfare through the creation of a *Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO)* in every province, city and municipality. This office will serve as the organizing or coordinating office focused particularly in exploring livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
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 "THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1       **SECTION 1.** - Section 40 of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as "The Magna  
2 Carta for Disabled Persons," is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

17       **Sec. 2. Repealing Clause.** - All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and  
18 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
19 accordingly.

1           **Sec. 3. Separability Clause.** - If any of the provisions of this Act is declared invalid,  
2 the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

3           **Sec. 4. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
4 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

5           Approved,