

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

8 AUG -4 P5:11

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

Senate Bill No. **2509**

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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Based on the results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing (Census 2006, the total number of persons with disability (PWDs) was posted at 942,098 or about 1.23 percent of the total population in the country. This registered an increase of 2.48 percent compared with the results of the 1995 Census of Population (POPCEN) (919,292 persons).

Of the total persons with disability, 473,332 (50.24 percent) were females and 468,766 (49.76 percent) were males.

The Rights of Disabled Persons and calls for national and international action to ensure that it will be used as a common basis and frame of reference for the protection of these rights:

1. The term "disabled person" means any person unable to ensure by himself or herself, wholly or partly, the necessities of a normal individual and/or social life, as a result of deficiency, either congenital or not, in his or her physical or mental capabilities.
2. Disabled persons shall enjoy all the rights set forth in this Declaration. These rights shall be granted to all disabled persons without any exception whatsoever and without distinction or discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, state of wealth, birth or any other situation applying either to the disabled person himself or herself or to his or her family.
3. Disabled persons have the inherent right to respect for their human dignity. Disabled persons, whatever the origin, nature and seriousness of their handicaps and disabilities, have the same fundamental rights as their fellow-citizens of the same age, which implies first and foremost the right to enjoy a decent life, as normal and full as possible.
4. Disabled persons have the same civil and political rights as other human beings; paragraph 7 of the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons applies to any possible limitation or suppression of those rights for mentally disabled persons.
5. Disabled persons are entitled to the measures designed to enable them to become as self-reliant as possible.

6. Disabled persons have the right to medical, psychological and functional treatment, including prosthetic and orthetic appliances, to medical and social rehabilitation, education, vocational training and rehabilitation, aid, counselling, placement services and other services which will enable them to develop their capabilities and skills to the maximum and will hasten the processes of their social integration or reintegration.

7. Disabled persons have the right to economic and social security and to a decent level of living. They have the right, according to their capabilities, to secure and retain employment or to engage in a useful, productive and remunerative occupation and to join trade unions.

8. Disabled persons are entitled to have their special needs taken into consideration at all stages of economic and social planning.

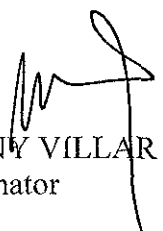
9. Disabled persons have the right to live with their families or with foster parents and to participate in all social, creative or recreational activities. No disabled person shall be subjected, as far as his or her residence is concerned, to differential treatment other than that required by his or her condition or by the improvement which he or she may derive therefrom. If the stay of a disabled person in a specialized establishment is indispensable, the environment and living conditions therein shall be as close as possible to those of the normal life of a person of his or her age.

10. Disabled persons shall be protected against all exploitation, all regulations and all treatment of a discriminatory, abusive or degrading nature.

11. Disabled persons shall be able to avail themselves of qualified legal aid when such aid proves indispensable for the protection of their persons and property. If judicial proceedings are instituted against them, the legal procedure applied shall take their physical and mental condition fully into account.

12. Organizations of disabled persons may be usefully consulted in all matters regarding the rights of disabled persons.


In order to fully protect the rights of disabled persons, the passage of this bill is of utmost importance, and is earnestly sought.

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator

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

8 AUG -4 P5:13

SENATE

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Senate Bill No. **2509**

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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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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."**

Section 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.

Section 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,