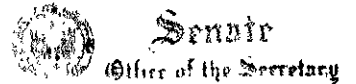



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 OCT -6 P 6:42

SENATE

S. No. 2985

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
GRANTING MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE TO ALL PERSONS WITH
DISABILITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITY", PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

The Philippines is known as a nation that holds in high regard the promotion of social justice and values the dignity of every human person. In line with this, Congress has enacted laws that promote, protect and ensure the full enjoyment of basic human rights by all human beings, including persons with disability (PWDs).

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities defines PWDs as those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which may hinder their full and effective participation in the society on an equal basis with others. The same convention called on all UN member-states to ensure that PWDs enjoy their rights, freedom and dignity.

In the Philippines, the rights of PWDs, particularly in the fields of employment, education, health, auxiliary services and telecommunications are enshrined in Republic Act No. 7277 or the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disability". This law also prohibits any and all discriminatory acts against PWDs. Subsequently, RA No. 9442 which amended the said Magna Carta extended to PWDs the privileges and incentives being enjoyed by senior citizens such as discounts on purchases of select goods and services.

The 2010 Census showed that there are approximately 1,442,586 PWDs in the country representing 1.53% of the entire Filipino population. The same people are said to belong to the poorest segments of the Filipino population¹. Thus, they are the ones who are greatly challenged to provide for their basic needs, specifically those that are health and medical in nature.

I have filed this bill to provide all PWDs with automatic health insurance coverage under the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth). Once enacted into law, all PWDs shall be able to enjoy the benefits of Philhealth. By doing so, they will be freed, to some extent, from the financial burden of availing health care services. To support their enrollment to Philhealth, the national government shall pay for their premium payments to be sourced from the sin tax collections in accordance with Republic Act No. 10351 otherwise known as "An Act Restructuring the Excise Tax on Alcohol and Tobacco Products".

It is in this regard that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH G. RECTO

¹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP).

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GRANTING MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE TO ALL PERSONS WITH
DISABILITY (PWDs), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277,
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITY”, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory
2 *Philhealth Coverage for All PWDs Act of 2015*”.

3 **Sec. 2.** A new section is hereby added after Section 18 under “Chapter III.
4 HEALTH” of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the “Magna
5 Carta for Persons with Disability” to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 19. MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE. – ALL**
7 **PERSONS WITH DISABILITY SHALL BE COVERED BY THE**
8 **NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM OF PHILHEALTH.**
9 **FUNDS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT OF ALL PWDs**
10 **WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY COVERED UNDER ANY EXISTING**
11 **CATEGORY SHALL BE SOURCED FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH**
12 **INSURANCE FUND OF PHILHEALTH EARMARKED FROM THE**
13 **PROCEEDS OF SIN TAX COLLECTIONS AS PROVIDED FOR IN**
14 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10351.**

15 **Sec. 3.** The succeeding sections of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, are
16 hereby renumbered accordingly.

17 **Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Philippine Health Insurance
18 Corporation (Philhealth) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development
19 (DSWD) shall promulgate, not later than thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act,
20 the necessary rules and regulation for its proper and effective implementation.

21 **Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
22 regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
23 amended or modified accordingly.

1 **Sec. 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

MSR