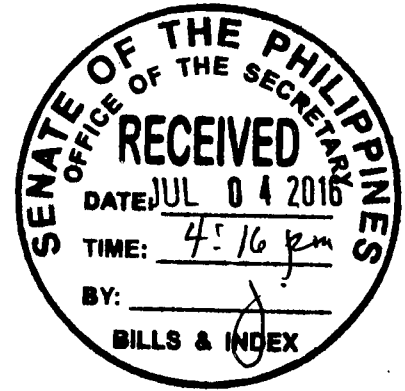


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 377



INTRODUCED BY SEN. ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution holds that the needs of the differently-abled should be prioritized as part of an "integrated and comprehensive approach to health development". Likewise, Section 13 underscores the need to integrate the differently-abled in society.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, of which the Philippines is a signatory, defines Persons with Disability (PWD) 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 calls on all UN member-states to ensure that PWDs enjoy their rights, freedom and dignity. Republic Act No. 7277 or the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disability" prohibits any form of discriminatory practices against PWDs. Subsequent to the amendment introduced by Republic Act No. 9442, it also extended privileges and incentives to PWDs, similar to those enjoyed by senior citizens.

However, PWDs are still burdened by the high cost of medical services. Given their condition, their likelihood to need medical assistance is greater. The 2010 Census showed that there are approximately 1,442,586 PWDs in the country representing 1.53% of the entire Filipino population. Majority of them are poor and cannot afford the rising costs of medical care.

This bill is envisaged to ameliorate the financial burden that attend medical care by providing 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. Premium payments shall be sourced from sin tax collections in accordance with Republic Act No. 10351, otherwise known as "An Act Restructuring the Excise Tax on Alcohol and Tobacco Products".

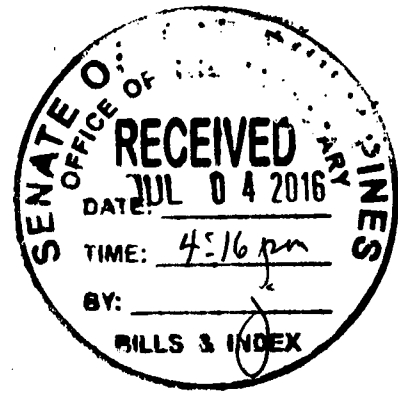
The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Ana Theresia Baraquiel
SEN. ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Title Two, Chapter 8, Section 32, of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is
2 hereby further amended to read as follows:

3
4 "CHAPTER 8. Other Privileges and Incentives"

5 "SEC. 32. Persons with disability shall be entitled to the following:

6 xxx

7 "(1) MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE

8 "ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY SHALL BE COVERED BY THE NATIONAL
9 HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM OF PHILHEALTH. FUNDS NECESSARY TO
10 ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT OF ALL PWDS NOT CURRENTLY COVERED BY ANY
11 EXISTING CATEGORY SHALL BE SOURCED FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH
12 INSURANCE FUND OF PHILHEALTH FROM PROCEEDS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
13 10351, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERTINENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

14 "xxx"

15
16 **SECTION 2.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)* – Philhealth, the Department of Health
17 (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall come up with
18 the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), within three (3) months after the law's effectivity.
19

20 **SECTION 3.** *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or
21 parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
22 accordingly.
23

24 **SECTION 4.** *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
25 the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
26

27 Approved,