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Third Regular Session)



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S E N A T E S. NO. 2787

RECEIVED BY:

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 31, 311, 501, 592, 1010, 1433, and 1764)

Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare, and Rural Development; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Ways and Means; and Finance; with Senators Lapid, Zubiri, Revilla, Jr., Hontiveros, Angara, Tulfo, Marcos, Dela Rosa, and Villanueva, as authors thereof

"AN ACT

FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Chapter 1, Title One of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities" is hereby amended by inserting new subsections to read as follows:

"Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms.* — [For purposes of] **AS USED IN** this Act[, these terms are defined as follows]:

"x x x"

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"(Q) ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES REFER TO DEVICES THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE AN INDIVIDUAL'S FUNCTIONING AND INDEPENDENCE TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION AND TO ENHANCE OVERALL WELL-BEING BY HELPING TO PREVENT IMPAIRMENTS AND SECONDARY HEALTH CONDITIONS. IT INCLUDES WHEELCHAIRS AND WALKERS, PROSTHESES,

HEARING AIDS, AIDS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, AND SPECIALIZED COMPUTER SOFTWARE, HARDWARE AND PERIPHERALS THAT INCREASE MOBILITY, HEARING, VISION, OR COMMUNICATION CAPACITIES, AMONG OTHERS; AND

"(R) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE REFERS TO ANY SERVICE THAT DIRECTLY ASSISTS A PERSON WITH DISABILITY IN THE SELECTION, ACQUISITION, OR USE OF AN ASSISTIVE DEVICE AND TECHNOLOGY."

SEC. 2. Section 8 (a) and (b) of Chapter 1, Title Two of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 8. *Incentives for Employers.* — (a) To encourage the active participation of the private sector in promoting the [welfare] RIGHTS of persons WITH DISABILITIES and to ensure gainful employment for qualified persons WITH DISABILITIES, adequate incentives shall be provided to private entities which employ persons WITH DISABILITIES.

"(b) Private entities that employ persons **WITH DISABILITIES** who meet the required skills or qualifications, either as regular employee, apprentice or learner, shall be entitled to an additional deduction, from their gross income, equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total amount paid as salaries and wages to disabled persons **WITH DISABILITIES**, *Provided*, [however, That such entities present proof as certified by the Department of Labor and Employment that disabled persons are under their employ: Provided, further, That the disabled employee is accredited with the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Health as to his disability, skills and qualifications.] THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), UNDER ITS LABOR LAWS, SHALL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE TO PRIVATE ENTITIES AS PRESCRIBED IN DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 131-B, SERIES OF

2016, OR THE REVISED RULES ON LABOR LAWS COMPLIANCE SYSTEM: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IF THERE IS NO QUALIFIED PERSON WITH DISABILITY APPLICANT AFTER THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE MANDATORY PUBLICATION BY THE EMPLOYER OF ITS JOB VACANCY RESERVED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE EMPLOYER MAY HIRE A NON-PERSON WITH DISABILITY APPLICANT FOR SAID RESERVED POSITIONS BY SECURING PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE DOLE.

9 "(c) x x x."

SEC. 3. Section 32 of Chapter 8, Title Two of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, is hereby amended by inserting four (4) new subsections to read as follows:

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

"x x x"

- (k) Provision of express lanes for persons with disability in all commercial and government establishments; in the absence thereof, priority shall be given to them.
- "(L) A MONTHLY STIPEND AMOUNTING TO FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) TO AUGMENT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE, MEDICAL AND OTHER NEEDS OF MARGINALIZED AND INDIGENT PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES: PROVIDED, THAT PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES WHO ARE RECIPIENTS OF SIMILAR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING MONETARY ASSISTANCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM, OR 4PS, SHALL NO LONGER BE GIVEN THIS STIPEND;

(M) PROVISION OF FREE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES SUCH AS THE EVALUATION OF THE NEEDS AND THE FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CUSTOMARY ENVIRONMENT OR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT, AS WELL AS SELECTING, DESIGNING, FITTING, CUSTOMIZING, ADAPTING, APPLYING, MAINTAINING, REPAIRING, OR REPLACING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES; TRAINING OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING AND JOB COACHING, AND SUCH OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE: PROVIDED, THAT THE BENEFICIARY IS A MARGINALIZED PERSON WITH DISABILITY AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED;

- (N) PROVISION OF FREE ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES INCLUDING TECHNICAL AIDS, PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC DEVICES OR APPLIANCES PARTICULARLY FOR PERSONAL USE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THAT WILL RESTORE THEIR SOCIAL FUNCTIONING AND PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, AND SUCH OTHER DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES APPROPRIATE TO OTHER DISABILITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE BENEFICIARY IS A MARGINALIZED PERSON WITH DISABILITY AS CERTIFIED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED; AND
 - "(O) EXEMPTION FROM PASSPORT PROCESSING FEES, AS WELL AS TRAVEL TAXES, TERMINAL FEES, OTHER FEES AND CHARGES LEVIED IN AIRPORTS, PORTS, OR OTHER TERMINALS BY THE GOVERNMENT, ITS AGENCIES OR INSTRUMENTALITIES, OR BY GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS.

- "The abovementioned privileges are available only to persons with

 DISABILITY who are Filipino citizens upon submission of any of the

 following as proof of entitlement thereto:
- "(I) THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITY identification card issued by
 the city or municipal mayor or the barangay CHAIR of the place where
 the person with disability resides, OR BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
 ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (NCDA); OR
- 8 "(II) The passport of the **PERSONS WITH DISABILITY** with **PERMANENT** disability.

- "[(III) Transportation discount fare Identification Card (ID) issued by the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP.)
- "PROVIDED THAT, THE IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED TO PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES SHALL BE FREE OF CHARGE AND SHALL BE VALID DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE CARDHOLDER: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT SUCH PERMANENT DISABILITY IS CERTIFIED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH OFFICE AND VERIFIED BY THE LOCAL SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (LSWDO).
- THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) SHALL ENSURE THAT THE LIFETIME VALIDITY OF THE ID CARD OF PERSONS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES IS NOT ABUSED, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE ID HOLDER DIES.
- **SEC. 4.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GCG), and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate, not later than ninety (90) days

- after the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for its proper and effective implementation.
- SEC. 5. *Appropriations*. The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall include in the DSWD's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.
 - **SEC. 6.** Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.
- SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. Any law, decrees or issuance, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
 - **SEC. 8.** Effectivity. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette, or in a newspaper of general circulation.
- 15 Approved,

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