

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 3027**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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Introduced by BAYAN MUNA Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI ZARATE

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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING THE USE OF FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS FOR LOCAL NEWS PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 22 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**


Originally filed by the Bayan Muna Partylist the during the previous Congresses, this Bill intends to promote the welfare of persons with disabilities through the mandatory inclusion of sign language interpreters in television programs. The State affirms and mandates the rehabilitation, self-development and integration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) into mainstream society through Republic Act No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities. Through the said law, television stations are encouraged to use subtitles or sign-language interpreters in their news programs. However, at present, only a small number of the major news programs are regularly using subtitles or sign-language insets. On the other hand, a couple of regional stations have been utilizing sign language insets with the help of non-government organizations.

With around a million PWDs, including those who are deaf, there is a long-standing yet unheeded call to use sign language in television programs. Without these aids, deaf individuals are deprived of timely and relevant information that broadcast news provides.

While Republic Act 10905 (which lapsed into law on July 22, 2016), provides for the insertion of mandatory subtitles in broadcasted programs, it should also be considered that less than five percent (5%) of the reported 120,000 hearing-impaired are literate or have received any form of schooling, according to the Philippine Deaf Resource Center. This is why Filipino sign language is preferred over captions or subtitles.

The proposed bill aims to make broadcast media more accessible to the deaf community. It hopes to pave the way for other sign-language interpreted programs in the future.

*Approved,*

  
**CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
*Bayan Muna Party-list*

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**REQUIRING THE USE OF FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS FOR LOCAL**  
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**REPUBLIC ACT 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA**  
**CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)”**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Filipino Sign Language Insets for News Programs Act of 2013.”

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the Government’s concern and responsibility to make telecommunications and mass media available to persons with disabilities for their rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance as provided by Republic Act No. 7277 or the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities” and the Philippine Constitution which upholds the right to information.

**SECTION 3.** Section 22 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Person with Disabilities (PWDs),” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 22 Broadcast Media – ALL FREE-TO-AIR television stations [shall be encouraged] ARE REQUIRED to provide [a sign-language inset] FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS, AND WHERE POSSIBLE, CLOSED CAPTIONS OR subtitles in at least TWO (2) newscast programs a day and special programs covering events of national significance.

“THE FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION STATIONS MAY LIKEWISE OPT TO PROVIDE FOR FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS IN OTHER PROGRAMS SUCH AS THOSE PERTAINING TO CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIVELIHOOD AND THOSE CATERING TO CHILDREN.”

**SECTION 4. *Constitutionality.*** – Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity or constitutionality of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, letters of instructions, resolutions, orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*