



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4596**

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**Introduced by Representatives Ria Christina G. Fariñas  
and Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Every Filipino citizen is guaranteed the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, right to information, and liberty of abode, among others, as enshrined in the Bill of Rights or Article III of the 1987 Constitution. However, it should be noted that equality is different from equity—equality is where everyone is treated the same regardless of social status but equity is uplifting those who are most in need to enable them to enjoy the basic necessities of life. One might think equality is what everyone deserves when equity and justice matter more. As a great Filipino once said, “those who have less in life should have more in law.”

Persons with disability (PWDs) need special care and attention from the government. Life with disability is understandably difficult. For them, travelling from one place to another would take extra effort, especially for those who have to commute. Their difficulties are exacerbated by the dire lack of accessibility facilities in our streets and buildings. We see foot bridges with only stairs to climb, pedestrian lanes not manned by anybody who could assist them in crossing the street, and sidewalks without access ramps and railings. While the government has constructed numerous foot bridges, underpasses, waiting sheds, sidewalks, and transportation terminals, many of these infrastructure lack accessibility features for PWDs.

Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta For Disabled Persons And For Other Purposes, mandates the provision of

accessibility facilities and features in public infrastructure but may have failed in not specifically providing for accessibility facilities in, among others, foot bridges, underpasses, pedestrian crossings, waiting sheds, sidewalks, shopping malls, and other land, sea and air transportation terminals, structures and facilities.

Through this bill, we hope to help enhance the mobility of our PWDs and alleviate their difficulties as they strive to become more productive members of our society.



**RIA CHRISTINA G. FARIÑAS**



**RUDYS CAÉSAR G. FARIÑAS I**



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1 **AN ACT**  
2 **TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE MOBILITY OF PERSONS WITH**  
3 **DISABILITY BY MANDATING CERTAIN ACCESIBILITY**  
4 **FACILITIES AND SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE**  
5 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
6 **"MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS," AS AMENDED,**  
7 **AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**  
8

9 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*  
10 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*  
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12 **SECTION 1.** Section 25, Chapter VI, of Republic Act (RA) No. 7277  
13 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 "Sec. 25. Barrier-Free Environment. — The State  
15 shall ensure the attainment of a barrier-free environment that  
16 will enable disabled persons to have access in public and  
17 private buildings and establishments and such other places  
18 mentioned in Batas Pambansa Bilang 344, otherwise known  
19 as the "Accessibility Law".



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The national and local governments shall allocate funds for the provision of architectural facilities or structural features for disabled persons in government buildings and facilities. SUCH ARCHITECTURAL FACILITIES AND STRUCTURAL FEATURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. FOOT BRIDGES AND UNDERPASSES WITH WHEEL CHAIR RAMPS THAT ARE ELEVATED AT A REASONABLE ANGLE, RAILINGS, AND ACCESSIBLE ELEVATORS;

B. WAITING SHEDS WITH RAMPS, RAILINGS AND SUCH OTHER IMPROVEMENTS OR FACILITIES NECESSARY TO MAKE THEM ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY; AND

C. COVERED WALKS OR WALKWAYS LEADING TO THE NEAREST PUBLIC TRANSPORT STOP OR TERMINAL, IF SUCH STOP OR TERMINAL IS NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED (100) METERS AWAY FROM ANY GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

1           IN ADDITION, LAND, AIR AND SEA  
2           TRANSPORTATION TERMINALS SHALL PROVIDE  
3           FACILITIES DEDICATED FOR PWDS EQUIPPED  
4           WITH ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES, INCLUDING  
5           TOILETS, TICKETING COUNTERS, WAITING  
6           LOUNGES, AND PARKING AND DROP OFF SPACES,  
7           WITH VISIBLE SIGNAGES INDICATING THAT  
8           THESE FACILITIES ARE FOR PWDS.

9           OPERATORS OF SHOPPING MALLS SHALL  
10          ENSURE THAT PWDS SHALL BE PRIORITIZED IN  
11          THE USE OF ELEVATORS AND ESCALATORS, AND  
12          THAT THERE ARE RAMPS GOING TO AND FROM  
13          PARKING LOTS.”

14          SEC. 2. Section 40 of RA 7277 is hereby amended to read as  
15 follows:

16               “Sec. 40. Role of National Agencies and Local  
17          Government Units. — Local government units shall  
18          promote the establishment of organizations of disabled  
19          persons in their respective territorial jurisdictions. National  
20          agencies and local government units may enter into joint  
21          ventures with organizations or associations of disabled

1 persons to explore livelihood opportunities and other  
2 undertakings that shall enhance the health, physical fitness  
3 and the economic and social well-being of disabled  
4 persons.

5 THE DPWH AND DOTR, IN COORDINATION  
6 WITH THE LGUS, SHALL CONDUCT OCULAR  
7 INSPECTION AND MONITORING OF GOVERNMENT  
8 BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES TO ENSURE  
9 COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ACT. THESE AGENCIES  
10 SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THE  
11 AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND  
12 MAINTENANCE OF THE FACILITIES REQUIRED IN  
13 THIS ACT.”

14 SEC. 3. Section 46 of RA 7277 is amended to read as follows:

15 “Sec. 46. Penal Clause. -

16 (a) Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall  
17 suffer the following penalties:

18 (1) For the first violation, a fine of not less than Fifty  
19 thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not exceeding One  
20 hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or  
21 imprisonment of not less than six months but not

1 more than two years, or both at the discretion of the  
2 court; and

3 (2) For any subsequent violation, a fine of not less  
4 than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but  
5 not exceeding Two hundred thousand pesos  
6 (P200,000.00) or imprisonment for not less than two  
7 years but not more than six years, or both at the  
8 discretion of the court.

9 (b) Any person who abuses the privileges granted herein shall  
10 be punished with imprisonment of not less than six months or  
11 a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00), but  
12 not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both, at  
13 the discretion of the court.

14 (c) If the violator is a corporation organization or any similar  
15 entity, the officials thereof directly involved shall be liable  
16 therefore.

17 (d) If the violator is an alien or a foreigner, he shall be  
18 deported immediately after service of sentence without further  
19 deportation proceedings.  
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1           Upon filing of an appropriate complaint, and after  
2       notice and hearing the proper authorities may also cause the  
3       cancellation or revocation of the business permit, permit to  
4       operate, franchise and other similar privileges granted to any  
5       business entity that fails to abide by the provisions of this Act.

6           MAYORS OF CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES  
7       WHO ARE REMISS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
8       THIS ACT SHALL BE ADMINISTRATIVELY  
9       SANCTIONED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RA 7160 AND  
10      OTHER EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS,  
11      AND ORDINANCES.”

12       SEC. 4. A new Section 46-A is hereby added and inserted after  
13      Section 46 of RA 7277, to read as follows:

14           “SEC. 46A. CITIZEN’S SUIT. FOR THE  
15      PURPOSES OF ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS OF  
16      CHAPTER VI (ACCESSIBILITY), ANY CITIZEN MAY  
17      FILE AN APPROPRIATE CIVIL OR ADMINISTRATIVE  
18      ACTION IN THE PROPER COURTS OR  
19      ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES AGAINST:



1           a)    THE DEPARTMENT IN CHARGE WITH  
2           RESPECT TO ORDERS, RULES AND REGULATIONS  
3           ISSUED INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ACT; AND

4           b)    ANY PUBLIC OFFICER WHO WILFULLY  
5           OR GROSSLY NEGLECTS THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS  
6           DUTY OR ABUSES AUTHORITY IN THE  
7           PERFORMANCE OF DUTY OR, IN ANY MANNER  
8           IMPROPERLY PERFORMS THE DUTIES UNDER THIS  
9           ACT OR ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND  
10          REGULATIONS; *PROVIDED*, THAT NO SUIT CAN BE  
11          FILED UNTIL AFTER A NOTICE OF THE INFRACTION  
12          HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC OFFICER AND NO  
13          APPROPRIATE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN THEREON  
14          WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF SUCH  
15          NOTICE.”

16          SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretaries of  
17          Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Department of  
18          Transportation (DOTr), shall promulgate the necessary rules and  
19          regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

20          SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective  
21          implementation of this Act shall be charged to the budget of DPWH and  
22          DOTr under the annual General Appropriations Act.

1        SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion of this Act is declared  
2        unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of  
3        the other provisions not affected thereby.

4        SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders,  
5        administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this  
6        Chapter are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

7        SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
8        days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2)  
9        newspapers of general circulation.

10       Approved,