

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8535**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide an enabling and empowering mechanism for people with disabilities (PWDs) to enhance their mobility, ease and comfort through PWD-friendly modes of transportation.

While establishments in the government and private sector have faithfully complied with laws mandating them to put in place, as integral parts of their entrance, ramps and platforms which persons with disabilities (PWDs) can access, such cannot be said of the country's transportation system. Against able-bodied passengers who jostle for riding space in buses and jeepneys, PWDs are rendered helpless on their own because these transport modes have no enabling mechanism for them. Unlike advanced countries, particularly the United States, which implemented inclusive mobility for the differently-abled citizens, the Philippines has yet to initiate a similar program despite increasing numbers of economically-productive, and mobile Filipino PWDs.

Proactive measures are needed now as the PWDs' contributions to the national economy are on an incremental trajectory. Many of them are in the business process outsourcing industry, financial system, and creative industries. Potentially, the PWD sector can contribute more as there are many of them who are out there in confines of their homes as there are no facilitating conveyances to transport them to centers of employment.

Premises considered, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED VARGAS

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AN ACT

TO INSTITUTE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS)-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IN CITIES AND URBAN CENTERS OF THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

SECTION 1. Policy- It is the policy of the State to promote the rights of every individual, access to economic opportunities considering their conditions and needs.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to this policy, there shall be established, under the Department of Transportation, a transportation and mobility program for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

SECTION 3. The initial amount of one hundred million pesos (P100M) needed for the implementation of this program shall be charged to the budget of the Department of Transportation under the General Appropriation Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the General Appropriation Act.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause- If, for any reason, any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person, group, and circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause- The provisions of this, as amended and all other laws, decrees, executive order, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity- This law shall take effect as soon as it is published in the Official Gazette.

Approved,