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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No 1077

RECEIVED

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF BATAS PAMBANSA 344 (BP 344), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE MOBILITY OF DISABLED PERSONS BY REQUIRING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHMENTS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES TO INSTALL FACILITIES AND OTHER DEVICES", WITH THE END IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO FURTHER PROTECT, UPHOLD AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, Batas Pambansa 344 (BP 344), entitled "An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments and Public Utilities to Install Facilities and other Devices", was enacted in February 25, 1983 by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos;

WHEREAS, said enactment envisioned the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) "to participate fully in the social life and the development of the societies in which they live and the enjoyment of the opportunities available to other citizens";

WHEREAS, in March 24, 1992, then President Corazon Aquino enacted Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Disabled Persons," which provides for the rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance of disabled persons and their integration into the mainstream of society, and was later amended by preceding laws such as Republic Act Nos. 9442, 10524, 10754, and 11228;

WHEREAS, in September 25, 2007, the Philippines ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which directs State parties to carry out policies to promote and advance the rights and welfare of PWDs;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, as a matter of policy, recognizes the rights of PWDs, and has, in fact, a number of issuances to support and advance the welfare of PWDs;

WHEREAS, however, in October 2018, during the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, it was observed that despite our State's efforts, there are still a lot of room for improvement;

WHEREAS, in terms of implementation, the accessibility for PWDs remains to be a challenge. Barrier-free buildings and infrastructure are still out of reach which make it all the more burdensome for the PWD sector to do even day-to-day tasks that are essential for them to live their lives and achieve their full potential;

WHEREAS, as it stressed by no less than the UNCRPD, it is vital for the State to ensure that PWDs are able to "live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life" through measures that identify and eliminate barriers to accessibility;

WHEREAS, it is thus imperative to determine whether public and private structures and infrastructures are at par with the standards set under local and international law, and whether global best practices are applied in the construction and maintenance of the same;

WHEREAS, it cannot be gainsaid that inclusivity demands accessibility, and it is only when the State endeavors to create an inclusive environment where the PWD sector can thrive and live their lives to the fullest, can it be declared that the mission has been accomplished;

WHEREAS, in creating such an environment, it is necessary that the implementation of existing laws and policies on the matter be not only adequate, but consistent with the evolving demands and changing of times in order to fully cater to the needs of the PWD sector;

WHEREAS, it is high time that measures and policies relating to espousing fundamental inclusivity be weaved into our society and culture in order to not only identify the issues that make up the plight of the PWD sector, but more importantly, understand and address them with promptness and efficiency;

WHEREAS, there is a need for a review and thorough study complemented with stakeholder consultation, especially the PWD sector, of policies and issuances with regard to the rights and privileges of PWDs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committees to look into, in aid of legislation, the effective implementation of BP 344, otherwise known as "An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments and Public Utilities to Install Facilities and Other Devices", with the end in view of possible amendments to further protect, uphold and promote the welfare of Persons With Disabilities.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.