

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS of the )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

SENATE

S.B. No. 2491

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Introduced by HON. RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a well-entrenched jurisprudential rule that a contract of transport of passengers is quite different in kind and degree from any contractual relation. It is a relationship imbued with public interest. Moreover, it is a state policy to protect the interest of the passenger, promote his general welfare and establish standards of conduct for the transportation industry.

Several laws and ordinances were enacted to safeguard the safety of the commuters to and from their place of destinations. Traffic enforcers were deployed to ensure efficient flow of various forms of public transportation.

Every person has the opportunity to choose whatever means of public transportation he prefers. Some favor to take the taxi for convenience, time constraint or for whatever reason under any circumstances. However, these taxi passengers are often victims of abusive taxi drivers. It has been observed that many taxi drivers collect in excess of what is due to them. Whatever the fare as registered in the taxi meter, the taxi driver automatically charged an amount rounded off to the nearest tens. If a passenger asks for his exact change, the common answer is that they do not have enough coins or this was their first trip. Imagine if there are 5,000 taxis more or less in Metro Manila alone doing the same unconscionable practice.

Let us be reminded that "no one shall be unjustly enriched at the expense of another." Thus, approval of this bill is earnestly urged.

  
RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT  
REQUIRING TAXI DRIVERS TO GIVE EXACT CHANGE TO THEIR  
PASSENGERS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF

*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 “Exact Fare Act”

**SECTION 2. *Prohibition against Failing or Refusing to Give Exact Change.*** – It shall be unlawful for any taxi driver or operator to give insufficient change or no change at all to commuters. It shall be the duty of the taxi drivers to give exact change to the passenger without waiting for the latter to ask for the same.

**SECTION 3. *Procedure in Filing a Complaint.*** –

- a) Not later than five (5) working days after a violation has been committed, the passenger shall file a complaint in writing to the Department of Transportation and Communication.
- b) The Department shall, in not more than ten (10) working days after receipt of the complaint, issue notice and conduct an investigation to the concerned driver and operator.
- c) The investigation or hearing of any complaint under this Act shall be summary in nature and without regard to technicalities of law or procedure, provided due process is observed.
- d) After a full investigation shall have been made by the Department, it shall issue its decision and findings not later than thirty (30) days from receipt of the complaint.

**SECTION 4. *Penalties.*** – *Any violation of this Act shall be punished as follows:*

The taxi driver shall be principally liable, however, in case of insolvency, the operator’s subsidiary liability will be enforced. For the first offense, a violator shall be fined One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00); for the second offense, a violator shall be fined Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00); and for the third offense, a violator shall be fined Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and shall be suspended from driving public utility vehicle for a period not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months. Any subsequent violations by the driver shall be penalized with a suspension for a period not less than one (1) year but not more than two (2) years and for the operator, his license to operate shall be suspended for the same period.

**SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Secretary of Transportation and Communication is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

**SECTION 6. *Separability Clause*** – If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not effected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any laws, decrees, or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed.

**SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*