

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
S. No. 1206

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public transportation is an essential element in the development of our country. Public transportation is still the preferred mode of most of our countrymen especially recently when the increasing price of fuel made private transportation less practical. It is also essential to our tourism industry since it allows the tourists to travel around the country.

Regrettably, many of the taxi drivers and operators abuse the reliance of our countrymen and tourist. Many drivers and operators devise schemes to increase their earnings sacrificing goodwill and quality of service along the way. We need to enact a law to protect our commuting public, citizens and tourists alike from predatory practices of some taxi drivers and operators and raise the service standards. By doing so, we would establish better public perception to the taxi service industry in general.

This bill seeks to acknowledge the rights of taxi passengers and penalizes both driver and the operator of the taxi cab who violates these rights.*


Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.



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1 AN ACT
2 ESTABLISHING THE RIGHTS OF TAXI PASSENGERS

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Taxi Passenger Bill of Rights
4 Act.”

5 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It shall be the policy of the State to establish a
6 world class public transportation system. To this end, the State shall establish transportation
7 service standards that shall address the basic rights of the passengers as maybe provided by law.

8 SECTION 3. *Rights of Taxi Passengers* – Taxi Passengers shall have the right to:

- 9 A. Be picked up and transported to their stated destination by any available on duty taxi
10 driver, subject to applicable traffic regulations;
- 11 B. A fare meter duly calibrated and sealed by proper authorities;
- 12 C. A properly dressed and courteous driver who provides assistance, if requested;
- 13 D. Travel with an assistance dog or portable mobility aid;
- 14 E. A taxi that is clean, smoke free, and in good repair;
- 15 F. Direct the route, or expect the most economical route;
- 16 G. See the taxi meter;
- 17 H. Refuse multiple hiring;
- 18 I. Have the air conditioning on or off;

1 J. See the driver's identification card, which shall state clearly the driver's name and the
2 taxi operator's name, place of business, and contract numbers, and shall contain a
3 picture of the driver. Copies of such identification card shall be displayed
4 prominently inside the taxi;

5 K. See the plate number of the taxi and emergency numbers for assistance by the
6 Philippine National Police prominently displayed on the side doors and other
7 conspicuous places within the taxi;

8 L. A quiet atmosphere, upon request;

9 M. Pay the rate exactly as posted in the meter, subject to other government sanctioned
10 fees; and

11 N. A detailed receipt.

12 SECTION 4. *Taxi Passengers' Rights Notification.* — The taxi passengers' rights as
13 enumerated in Section 3 shall be prominently displayed in the taxi cab. Such notification shall
14 also contain a brief description of the procedure on how to file a complaint for violation of any of
15 the rights enumerated as well as the necessary contact information provided by the Land
16 Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to handle such complaints.

17 SECTION 5. *Period of Implementation.* — The LTFRB shall be the agency primarily
18 responsible in the enforcement and implementation of this Act. Within sixty (60) days from the
19 effectivity of this Act, the LTFRB shall formulate and issue the necessary implementing rules
20 and regulations and shall mobilize available resources to assure the effective implementation of
21 this Act.

22 SECTION 6. *Penalties and Fines.* — In the enforcement of this Act, the LTFRB shall
23 impose fines against drivers and operators, solidarily, for violation of this Act.

24 The following shall be the basis in defining the fine and penalty provisions of the
25 implementing rules and regulations to be promulgated pursuant to Section 11 hereof, provided

1 that six (6) months grace period shall be allowed to lapse to conduct a nationwide information
2 campaign.

3 A. For failure to observe any of the rights enumerated in Section 3, a minimum fine of
4 Five hundred pesos (₱500) but not to exceed Two thousand pesos (₱2,000) for the
5 first violation; a minimum fine of One thousand pesos (₱1,000) but not to exceed
6 Five thousand pesos (₱5,000) for the second violation; and a minimum fine of Three
7 thousand pesos (₱3,000) but not to exceed Ten thousand pesos (₱10,000) and
8 suspension of driver's license and/or the Certificate of Public Convenience for a
9 period of one (1) week for the third and succeeding violations;

10 B. For non-compliance on the requirement under Section 4, a minimum fine of One
11 thousand (₱1,000) but not to exceed Five thousand pesos (₱5,000) for every violation.

12 SECTION 7. *Nationwide Public Information Campaign.* —

13 A. The LTFRB, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), the
14 Department of Education, and private agencies and organizations, shall undertake a
15 nationwide information, education, and communication (IEC) campaign for the
16 attainment of the objectives of this Act.

17 B. The LTFRB, in coordination with the local government units, shall likewise utilize
18 the services of citizen groups and community organizations for the promotion of
19 public safety awareness in observance of this Act.

20 C. The fines that will be collected for the enforcement of this Act shall be used
21 exclusively for the implementation of the provisions of this Act, including the
22 necessary information campaigns.

23 SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
24 this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the LTFRB under the current General
25 Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full implementation shall
26 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and separate item.

1 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
6 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

7 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,