

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
*First Regular Session*

04 JUN 30 P10:49

SENATE

S. No. 782

RECEIVED BY: *Sen*

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The franchise granted to the taxis by the Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) allows them to ply various routes anywhere in Luzon.

Despite this, authorities have always been flooded of complaints regarding taxi drivers who choose passengers or refuse to load passengers. Such behavior defeats the very purpose of the existence of taxis, which is to provide available, convenient and quick means of transportation to commuters.

The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Land Transportation Office (LTO) and LTFRB have been warning taxi drivers and operators against being choosy in rendering their services. However, issuing warnings was never effective in disciplining taxi drivers.

Hence, this bill declares unlawful for taxi operators and drivers to choose their passengers or refuse to convey them to their destination without any valid reason. Stiff penalties against violators are also provided in this measure.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is strongly recommended.



**MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.**  
Senator

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**AN ACT**  
**PENALIZING DRIVERS AND OPERATORS OF TAXICABS WHO CHOOSE AND/OR**  
**REFUSE TO LOAD AND RENDER SERVICES TO PASSENGERS, INSTITUTING**  
**PENALTIES THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Statement of Policy.* It is a policy of the State to promote general welfare as an essential element for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy. Towards this end, the citizenry shall be guaranteed equal access to public services and public utilities.

SECTION 2. *Unlawful Act.* - It shall be unlawful for any driver and/or operator of any taxi to refuse to convey or choose their passengers and their destination without any valid reason.

SECTION 3. *Penalties.* Any driver who shall be found guilty of, choosing their passenger/s and/or refusing to render service to any passenger/s shall be meted the following penalties:

1. First Offense- One month suspension of driver's license and a fine of One Thousand pesos (P1,000.00)
2. Second Offense- Cancellation of franchise of the operator and imprisonment of one to two years as the court may determine.

Any operator driving his own taxicab shall be found guilty of committing the acts stated above shall suffer the following penalties:

1. First Offense- One month suspension of his driver's license and a fine of Five Thousand pesos (P 5,000.00)
2. Second Offenses- Suspension of franchise and imprisonment of one to two years as the court may determine.
3. Third Offense- Cancellation of franchise and driver's license, and imprisonment that would not be less than two years but not more than five years.

SECTION 4. *Implementing rules and regulations*- The land Transportation Office (LTO) of the Department of Transportation and Communication in coordination with the Metro Manila Authority (MMDA) shall promulgate rules and regulation necessary to effectively implement the provision of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause*- If any provision or part hereof shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the provision herein not otherwise affected shall remain valid.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause*- Any law, Presidential Decree, or issuance, Executive Order, Letter of Instruction, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity*.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*