

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 P5:37

SENATE  
S. No. 1628

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The use of taximeter accelerating devices, as a means of overcharging passengers in taxicabs, is a problem commonly faced by regulatory agencies and the riding public at large. The devices found in taxicabs are typically activated by the driver through the use of a small magnet, hand-held control, or an electronic device, (such as a radio), installed in the taxicab. The devices typically cause additional or false electric pulses to be sent to the taximeter, thereby resulting in increased fares being charged to passengers.

There is no legitimate public purpose for either the possession or use of a meter accelerating device. Such devices perpetuate fraud upon taxicab passengers.

This bill seeks to protect the public from this fraudulent activity. \*

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*acs*

\* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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1 AN ACT  
2 PUNISHING THE CRIME OF TAMPERING WITH A TAXIMETER

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

5 SECTION 1. *Definition.* For the purposes of this Act :

- 6 1) "Taximeter" means an instrument or device that automatically calculates and displays  
7 the charge to a passenger in a vehicle that is licensed to transport members of the public  
8 for hire pursuant to law.
- 9 2) "Taximeter Accelerating Device" means an instrument or device that causes a  
10 taximeter to increase the charge displayed by the taximeter to an amount above the  
11 maximum permitted by law.

12 SECTION 2. *Criminal Act.* A person is guilty of tampering with a taximeter when,  
13 with intent to increase the fare displayed by a taximeter to an amount above the maximum  
14 amount allowed by law, he or she tampers with such taximeter or attaches or otherwise uses a  
15 taximeter accelerating device to cause any signal, impulse or data to be fed into or transmitted to  
16 such taximeter.

17 SECTION 3. *Penalty* – Any violation in accordance with section 2 of this Act shall be  
18 punishable by imprisonment of not less than 3 months but not more than 1 year. The offender  
19 shall also pay a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50, 000.00). The offender's franchise or license  
20 shall also be revoked.

1           SECTION 4 *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts  
2 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
3 accordingly.

4           SECTION 5 *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is  
5 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not  
6 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7           SECTION 6 *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
8 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

9           Approved,