FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE) REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES) First Regular Session) SENATE S.B. No. 2060

Introduced by Senator EDGARDO J. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presently, the grant of student fare discounts is only through a memorandum circular of the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB). This bill aims to put the thrust of the circular forward by institutionalizing the grant of a fare discount privilege to *bonafide* students on land, water and air transport utilities, not only during school days but also during Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas vacations and other holidays during a school year or school semester, whichever is applicable.

The proposed grant is envisioned to lessen the impact of the current economic difficulties and assist parents and students in shouldering the transportation expenses relative to the rising cost of education in our country. Majority of its intended beneficiaries belong to the indigent, depressed and under privileged sector. Hence, they need and deserve the assistance of the government.

Under the proposed measure, the fare discount privilege is available to students even during Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas vacation and other holidays to enable and encourage them to undertake researches and group studies. It is in recognition of the fact that during such days and periods students are returning to their respective communities to assist their parents and at the same time to get their allowances for the succeeding school week. Moreover, there are certain students, like medical interns and those undergoing military trainings and specialized studies, who are required to report during such days and periods.

Approval therefore is earnestly sought.

RDO J. ANGARA

SEWATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

SENATE

)

)

)

S.B. No. 2060

Introduced by Senator EDGARDO J. ANGARA

AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES ON LAND, WATER AND AIR TRANSPORT UTILITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. *Declaration of Policy*. Pursuant to Article XIV, Section 1 of the 2 Constitution, "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality 3 education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to 4 all." In addition, Paragraph 3, Section 2 of said Article directs the State to establish and 5 maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other 6 incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private 7 schools, especially to the underprivileged.

8 9 Sec. 2. Purpose. Consistent with these Constitutional mandates, this Act aims to: 10 a) To establish a mechanism that ensures the mandatory grant of tire discount 11 privilege to deserving students. 12 13 b) 'To enlist the cooperation and/or support of transport utility owners to extend 14 assistance to deserving students as a social responsibility through the 15 16 observance of this grant; and 17 c) To encourage students, particularly the poor and underprivileged, to pursue 18 19 quality education to secure their future and make them responsible citizens. 20

1 Sec. 3. *Definitions*. As used in this *Act*, the term "*student*" shall refer to any 2 Filipino citizen, not more than thirty (30) years of age, and currently enrolled either in 3 elementary, secondary or collegiate institutions, including vocational and technical 4 schools. Specifically excluded are schools of culinary arts and short-term courses of 5 seminar type.

6

7 The term *"transport utilities"* shall refer to both public and private firms/ 8 companies duly authorized to engage in the conveyance of passengers, either by land, 9 water or air for a fixed rate of fees.

10

Sec. 4. *Privilege of Students.* The *bonafide* students under this Act shall be entitled to a grant of twenty percent (20 %) discount on regular fares upon presentation of their duly issued school Identification Cards (IDS) or current validated enrollment forms supported by other document/s to properly establish identity. Said fare discount. shall be available during the entire school year for elementary and secondary students, during the semester for college students, and during the duration of a course for vocational or technical students, including Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and Christmas vacations.

18

19Sec. 5. Coverage. This Act shall cover all bonafide students, except those20specifically excluded therefrom as defined in Section 2 hereof.

21

26

29

Sec. 6. *Filing of Complaints and/or Violations and Penalties.* Students who are refused from availing the privilege under this Act may file their complaints with the Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) which shall direct the concerned board / authority / office, as herein identified, *to wit.*

- a) The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for land
 transportation utilities;
- 30 b) The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) for sea/water transportation
 31 utilities;
 - c) The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) for air transportation utilities; or
- 34

32

33

- 1 d) The Legal Service, DOTC, for rail transportation facilities, including the Light 2 Railway Transit (LRT) and the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) projects. 3 Section 7. Penalties. After due investigation and findings the complaint to be true 4 5 and valid, the following penalties shall be imposed as herein specified: 6 7 a) For Land Transportation Utilities: Suspension of license for the erring driver, 8 conductor or inspector for one (1) month for the 1st offense; two (2) months for the 2nd offense; three (3) months for the 3rd offense; and for subsequent 9 violations, a three- month suspension of license, plus a fine of Five Hundred 10 11 Pesos (P500.00) for each violation of the erring party. 12 13 b) For Water and Air Transport Utilities: A fine shall be imposed against the 14 erring firms/establishment or their authorized agents in the amount of One 15 Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for the 1st offense; Two Thousand Pesos 16 (P2,000.00) for the 2nd offense; Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000) for the 3rd 17 offense; and Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for each subsequent violation. 18 19 c) For Rail Transport Utilities: All rail transport utilities are mandate to observe 20 the aforesaid fare discount privilege and designate a student / senior citizen fare 21 booth in their boarding stations. Violation thereof shall be sanctioned or fined 22 as indicated in the paragraph immediately preceding (item b, above). 23 24 Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Secretary of the Department of 25 Transportation and Communications (DOTC) shall direct the attached agencies or offices under his Department to prepare and formulate, within thirty (30) days upon approval of 26 this Act, the Implementing Rules of this Act 27 28 29 Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. All provisions of laws, decrees, orders, including rules 30 and regulations Inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly. 31 32 Sec. 10. Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Act is declared 33 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby 34 shall remain in full force and in effect. 35
 - 3

1Sec. 11. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its2publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

.

.

7

- 3
- 4 Approved,

١

۰ ۰