

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
Pasay City



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

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S. B. No. 203

Introduced by SENATOR JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. 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.

JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA



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9 Introduced by Senator JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

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12 AN ACT
13 INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES
14 ON LAND, WATER AND AIR TRANSPORT UTILITIES AND FOR OTHER
15 PURPOSES
16

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

19
20 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** Pursuant to Article XIV, Section 1 of the
21 Constitution, "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at
22 all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." In addition,
23 Paragraph 3, Section 2 of said Article directs the State to establish and maintain a system at
24 scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be
25 available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the
26 underprivileged.

27
28 **SEC. 2. Purpose.** Consistent with these Constitutional mandates, this Act aims to:

- 29 a) To establish a mechanism that ensures the mandatory grant of fare discount privilege
30 to deserving students.
31 b) To enlist the cooperation and/or support of transport utility owners to extend
32 assistance to deserving students as a social responsibility through the observance of
33 this grant; and
34 c) To encourage students, particularly the poor and underprivileged, to pursue quality
35 education to secure their future and make them responsible citizens.
36

37 **SEC. 3. Definitions.** As used in this Act, the term "**student**" shall refer to any Filipino
38 citizen, not more than thirty (30) years of age, and currently enrolled either in elementary,
39 secondary or collegiate institutions, including vocational and technical schools. Specifically
40 excluded are schools of culinary arts and short-term courses of seminar type.
41

42 The term "**transport utilities**" shall refer to both public and private firms/companies duly
43 authorized to engage in the conveyance of passengers, either by land, water or air for a fixed
44 rate of fees.
45

46 **SEC. 4. Privilege of Students.** The *bonafide* students under this Act shall be entitled to
47 a grant of twenty percent (20%) discount on regular fares upon presentation of their duly issued

1 school Identification Cards (IDs) or current validated enrollment forms supported by other
2 document/s to properly establish identity. Said fare discount shall be available during the entire
3 school year for elementary and secondary students, during the semester for college students,
4 and during the duration of a course for vocational or technical students, including Saturdays,
5 Sundays, Holidays, and Christmas vacations.

6
7 **SEC. 5. Coverage.** This Act shall cover all *bonafide* students, except those specifically
8 excluded therefrom as defined in Section 2 hereof.

9
10 **SEC. 6. Filing of Complaints and/or Violations and Penalties.** Students who are
11 refused to avail of the privilege under this Act may file their complaints with the Office of the
12 Secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) which shall direct the
13 concerned board/authority/office, as herein identified, *to wit*.

- 14
15 a) The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for land
16 transportation utilities;
17 b) The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) for sea/water transportation utilities;
18 c) The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) for air transportation utilities;
19 d) The Legal Service, DOTC, for rail transportation facilities, including the Light Railway
20 Transit (LRT) and the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) projects.

21
22 **SEC. 7. Penalties.** After due investigation and findings the complaint to be true and
23 valid, the following penalties shall be imposed as herein specified:

- 24
25 a) For Land Transportation Utilities: Suspension of license for the erring driver,
26 conductor or inspector for one (1) month for the 1st offense; two (2) months for the
27 2nd offense; three (3) months for the 3rd offense; and for subsequent violations, a
28 three- month suspension of license, plus a fine of Five Hundred Pesos (P500) for
29 each violation of the erring party.
30
31 b) For Water and Air Transport Utilities: A fine shall be imposed against the erring
32 firms/establishment or their authorized agents in the amount of One Thousand Pesos
33 (P1,000) for the 1st offense; Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000) for the 2nd offense; Three
34 Thousand Pesos (P3,000) for the 3rd offense; and Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000) for
35 each subsequent violation.
36
37 c) For Rail Transport Utilities: All rail transport utilities are mandate to observe the
38 aforesaid fare discount privilege and designate a student/senior citizen fare booth in
39 their boarding stations. Violation thereof shall be sanctioned or fined as indicated in
40 the paragraph immediately preceding (item b, above).

1 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Secretary of the Department of
2 Transportation and Communications (DOTC) shall direct the attached agencies or offices
3 under his Department to prepare and formulate, within thirty (30) days upon approval of this
4 Act, the Implementing Rules of this Act.

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6 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** All provisions of laws, decrees, orders, including rules and
7 regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid
10 or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain
11 in full force and in effect.

12
13 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
14 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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16 Approved,
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