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

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SENATE
S.B. NO. 965

Introduced by Senator JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Economic recovery and accelerated development require support by a national network of roads and an orderly and well-managed traffic and engineering system.

We need a national road system, which connects and promotes key growth areas, urban and rural. There should be an infrastructure, which facilitates the efficient flow of raw materials to industry, gives unhampered access of goods and products to markets and consumers, and provides overall support to agrarian and urban land reforms.

This proposal for a national program on transport and traffic engineering and management seeks to rationalize the design, construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, waterways, and all forms of transport of men and economic goods.

It also provides for a Center, which will be pivotal in the implementation of the nation's program.

For the accelerated development of our country, approval of this measure is urgent.

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JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC ENGINEERING CENTER, DEFINING ITS
FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. **Title.** - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Charter of the
National Traffic Engineering Center".

SECTION 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the
State that the protection of life and property and the promotion of the economic well-
being of the people shall be pursued by providing them the necessary facilities for safe
and convenient travel from their residences to their places of work and for the efficient
delivery of their products from farms and factories to the markets.

SECTION 3. **Creation of the National Traffic and Engineering Center.** - The
Project Management Office for Traffic Engineering and Management of the Department
of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is hereby converted into the National Traffic
Engineering Center (NTEC) hereinafter referred to as the "Center" that shall attend
solely to traffic engineering and management needs nationwide.

The Center shall be attached to the Department of Public Works and Highways
(DPWH) under the direct supervision of the Secretary of Public Works and Highways.
The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall approve the policies, programs,
projects, rules and regulations, submitted by the Executive Director of the Center to
carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION. 4. **Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, unless the context
indicates otherwise, the terms used herein shall mean as follows:

a) Traffic Engineering Facilities and Equipment includes traffic control systems, geometric improvement of intersections, sidewalks and median islands, road signs and pavement markings, pedestrian overpasses, waiting sheds and other traffic safety devices.

b) Traffic Control System includes traffic signal, local signal controllers, vehicle detectors, control center and related facilities and equipment such as close circuit television cameras and signal lanterns.

c) Traffic Control Signal includes any device using a word or words, symbol or symbols, a color light or lights or any combination thereof operated mechanically, electrically or manually.

d) Local Signal Controllers mean any equipment controlling the signal switching time for signal lanterns from green to orange to red color based and the command sent by the computer at the control center.

e) Vehicle Detectors includes such equipment installed near signalized intersection which measures the number and speed of vehicles and the data to the computer at the control center.

f) Control Center is the place which houses the computer room, computer room for traffic control signals and radio communications equipment.

g) Geometric Improvements of Intersections, Sidewalks and Median Islands means the modification of the design of intersections, sidewalks and median islands to allow for safer, faster and efficient traffic flow.

h) Intersection means place where two (2) or more roads intersect, join, meet or merge, and shall include the area where vehicles travelling on different directions may collide.

i) Median Islands are also called Center Islands include any physical structure other than lines marked at the center of a roadway that separates opposite traffic flow.

j) Sidewalks mean that portion of a roadway assigned for use by pedestrians.

k) Curbs and Gutters mean any physical structure that segregates the road from the sidewalk and its accompanying structure where water flows toward a canal.

l) Road Sign includes regulatory road signs, special instruction signs, warning signs, guide signs or informative signs for road works and special purposes.

m) Pavement Markings include the longitudinal lines, transverse lines, object markings, reflector markings and other lines and markings on the roadway.

n) Pedestrian Barrier means any physical structure that will control pedestrian movement.

o) Pedestrian Lanes are areas where pedestrians may cross roadways indicated

by bars painted parallel to the road centerline or a pair of solid white lines across a road surface.

p) Pedestrian Overpass includes any physical structure used by pedestrians to cross over roadways without disrupting traffic flow at any time.

q) Waiting Sheds includes any physical infrastructure by the roadway, which provides pedestrian while waiting for transport.

r) Traffic Island means any physical structure other than the lines marked on a roadway made at or near intersections.

s) Signal Lanterns mean traffic signal lights.

SECTION 5. *Relationship with the Local Government Units.* – The Center shall provide technical assistance to local governments units on matters pertaining to traffic engineering, including but not limited to, providing traffic control devices and related facilities and equipment available at the Center and assistance in the preparation of related documents/supporting papers and studies, preparation and/or implementation of traffic management plans, conduct of traffic studies, and coordinative/monitoring support on traffic engineering and management. The Center shall likewise provide the necessary technical training to local government personnel in the operation and maintenance of traffic control system and related facilities and equipment with the end in view of transferring the management of the technologies and equipment to local government units.

SECTION 6. *Purposes and Objectives.* - The Center shall have the following purposes:

a. To integrate and coordinate the planning, development, construction, operation and maintenance of traffic engineering and management needs and requirements nationwide.

b. To promote the easy flow of road traffic thereby increasing efficient safety in the transport of men and goods and the development of small and medium-scale small industries nationwide.

SECTION 7. *Duties and Responsibilities.* -The Center shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Assist in the development and implementation of policies for urban and regional transport;

2. Provide technical the planning, services for the planning, design, installation, and construction, operation and maintenance of traffic engineering and management facilities and equipment nationwide;

3. Develop and of implement a national code of standards, specifications, and operational, guidelines for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of traffic control systems;

4. Assist other agencies including the local government units, in finding solutions to local traffic problems;

5. Review and approve all design plans for traffic engineering and management proposed by any government agency or local government units to ensure uniformity standardization;

6. Coordinate with other agencies and authorities created for special metropolitan political subdivisions tasked with transport and traffic engineering management in the development of comprehensive plans and strategies for urban traffic and transport;

7. Formulate plans and programs to train and educate the motorists and the public on the important use of the various traffic control facilities and other aspects of road safety and courtesy;

8. Conduct researches, studies on and seminars traffic engineering and management with emphasis on accident prevention and efficient traffic control; and

9. Receive donations from local and foreign institutions or agencies, for the purpose of carrying out its objectives.

SECTION 8. *Executive Director.* - The Center shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of Public Works' and Highways. The Executive Director shall have a rank equivalent to an Executive Director IV position. The Executive Director shall be assisted by two (2) Deputy Executive Directors; one (1) Deputy Executive Director for project planning, design and implementation and one (1) for administration, operations and maintenance of traffic control system. The Deputy Executive Directors shall have the rank equivalent to Deputy Executive Director IV to be appointed by the Secretary of Public Works and Highways.

SECTION 9. *General Powers and. Duties of the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Directors.* -

A. The general powers and duties of the Executive Director shall be as follows:

1) To implement the policies, programs, projects, guidelines, procedures, rules and regulations promulgated, prescribed, issued or adopted by the center for urban regional transport;

2) To manage the day-to-day affairs of the Center, and to ensure the

operational efficiency of the traffic engineering and management facilities and equipment nationwide;

3) Head the technical, consultative and management staff of the Center;

4) To undertake the conduct of traffic survey, planning and design of traffic Engineering and management measures and services, the of conduct of transportation and traffic-related research and studies and the preparation and updating of the Code of Traffic Management and Operations;

5) To determine the organization of the Center and create such functional units therein as deemed necessary in the proper and efficient implementation of the functions and purposes of the Center, including recommending the appointment of officials and employees, it being understood that the security of tenure of these workers shall be respected consistent to existing laws; and

6) Perform other related functions that may be assigned by the Secretary of Public Works and Highways or as may be necessary and the convenient for attainment of the objectives of the Center.

B. The Deputy Executive Directors of the Center shall have the following general powers, functions and duties:

1) To assist the Executive Director in implementing, enforcing, and applying the policies, programs, projects, guidelines, procedures, rules and regulations promulgated, prescribed, issued, or adopted by the Center;

2) To assist the Executive Director in the performance of his other functions and duties; and

3) To perform such other duties as the Executive Director may assign from time to time.

SECTION. 10. Appropriations. - - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the existing project funds and other appropriations of abolished Project Management Office for Traffic Engineering and Management as authorized in the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, funds for the Center Shall be provided in the annual Appropriations, Act.

SECTION 11. Transitory Provisions. - The Project Management Office for the Traffic Engineering and Management of the Department of Public Works and Highways shall, upon approval of this Act, be abolished and its existing functions and such appropriations, funds, records, equipment, facilities, other assets and personnel shall be transferred to the Center.

SECTION. 12. Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Act or the

application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the applications of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 13. **Repealing Clause.** – All acts, charters, executive orders, administrative orders, rules regulations, or parts thereof, in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Approved,