

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES

Second Regular Session



Senate

Office of the Secretary

'18 FEB 14 P4:26

SENATE
S.B. No. 1695

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Poe

AN ACT
TO IMPROVE LAND TRANSPORTATION TERMINALS, STATIONS, AND STOPS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

Traveling is an important part of *pinoy* culture. A survey by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) found that freedom to travel is an important part of what Filipinos want for their families.¹

An efficient and functional inter-province transport system is essential to ensuring that Filipinos travel safely. In particular, rest stops are indispensable for those traveling by land, as they provide a brief “pit stop” for travellers and bus drivers. This is especially important for Filipinos who travel for more than 8 hours.

This bill seeks to further improve the travelling experience of Filipinos. This measure seeks to mandate the provision of free internet in land transportation terminals, stations, stops, and rest areas. Owners, operators, or administrators of such establishments shall be mandated to provide free and clean sanitary facilities for passengers.

In view of the foregoing, speedy approval of this measure is eagerly sought.²

GRACE POE

¹ National Economic and Development Authority. “The Filipino. *Public Consultations: Discussions with the Filipino Youth*”. Retrieved from http://2040.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Vision2040_final.pdf

² This measure a counterpart to House Bill No. 725 authored by Representatives Dalog, Revilla, Dalipe, Pimentel, Gonzales, Castelo, Biazon, Sarmiento (C.), and Primcias-Agabas.

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

1 **SECTION. 1.** *Declaration of Policy.*- The State recognizes that the right of every
2 establishment to a fair return of investment carries with it a corresponding social responsibility to
3 provide adequate facilities for the comfort of its clientele. Towards this end, the State shall
4 hereby require the owners, operators and administrators of land transportation terminals, stations,
5 stops and rest areas to improve their facilities through the provision of free internet services and
6 clean and sanitary facilities.

7
8 **SEC. 2.** *Definition of Terms.*- As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- 9
10 a) "*Land transport terminal/station*" refers to a passenger station and a place for the
11 final stopover or a permanent station, office and yard of public utility vehicles, which
12 may also serve as loading and unloading area for passengers;
- 13
14 b) "*Land transport stop*" refers to a common place for the stopover of public utility
15 vehicles located along the highways or regular route for transport in long-distance
16 travel;
- 17
18 c) "*Rest area*" refers to a facility located at a strategic point along the national highway
19 or route of the traveling public which is provided with parking space, restaurants or
20 snack bars, other business shops, recreational facilities, service stations, public
21 restroom facilities or waiting sheds for travellers or commuters; *and*
- 22

1 d) "Sanitary facilities" refer to a set of facilities that include at least a combination of
2 comfort room, hand-washing and drinking facilities.
3

4 **SEC. 3. Provision of Free Internet.-** Pursuant to Republic Act No. 10929, otherwise
5 known as the "Free Internet Access in Public Places Act", the Department of Information and
6 Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the Department of Transportation
7 (DOTr) and other concerned stakeholders, shall ensure that free internet is provided in
8 transportation terminals, stations, stops, and rest areas. Owners, operators, or administrators of
9 such establishments shall fully cooperate with the DICT in the installation of such hardware and
10 facilities as may be necessary for the implementation of this provision.
11

12 **SEC. 4. Clean Sanitary Facilities.-** The owner, operator, or administrator of land
13 transport terminals, stations, stops, and rest areas shall provide free and clean sanitary facilities
14 for passengers. The DOTr, in coordination with the relevant government agencies, shall conduct
15 random inspections to ensure that such establishments comply with this provision.
16

17 **SEC. 5. Prohibition on Collection of Fees to Access Sanitary Facilities.** It shall be
18 unlawful to collect fees from passengers for the use of regular sanitary facilities therein. For the
19 purpose of this Act, the concerned passenger must show the paid bus ticket for the day in order
20 to avail of the free use of the sanitary facility: *Provided*, however, That the provisions of this Act
21 shall not apply to separate, well-appointed or deluxe sanitary facilities that are operated solely
22 for commercial purposes and for the convenience of passengers who require and prefer such
23 facilities within land transport terminals, stations, stops or rest areas.
24

25 **SEC. 6. Penalty.-** Any owner, operator or administrator of land transport terminals,
26 stations, stops and rest areas who violates the prohibition under Section 4 of this Act shall be
27 liable for a fine in the amount of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) for each day of violation. The
28 Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), after five (5) years from the
29 effectivity of this Act and once every five (5) years thereafter, review the applicability and
30 enforcement of the fine prescribed in the preceding paragraph and the necessary adjustments on
31 the amount of the fine imposed subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of
32 Transportation (DOTR).
33

34 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.-** The DOTr, DICT and the LTFRB shall,
35 within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, jointly promulgate the necessary
36 implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.
37

38 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.-** All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof
39 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
40 accordingly.

1
2 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.***- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
3 the *Officia Gazette* in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.
4

5 Approved,