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NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

RECEIVED



SENATE

S. B. NO. 2635

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROHIBITING THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF BEACONS, SIRENS, AND**  
**OTHER EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHTS AND AUDIO ACCESSORIES**  
**FOR MOVING MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW,**  
**PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The indiscriminate use of beacons, sirens, and other emergency vehicle lights and audio accessories by motor vehicle drivers and/or owners, particularly politicians, poses a significant road safety concern in the Philippines. This misuse not only creates hazards on the roads but also erodes public trust in the responsible operation of motor vehicles, especially when such misuse is committed by public officials to gain undue advantage or assert unwarranted authority over other road users.

Existing regulations on the subject matter issued by various law enforcement agencies such as the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), lack uniformity, leading to confusion and ineffective enforcement. This bill aims to address these challenges by establishing a cohesive framework to regulate and deter the unauthorized use of emergency vehicle lights and audio accessories, and ensure their proper use for appropriate cases, such as the transportation of patients or victims who need immediate medical care.

The proposed legislation aligns with the Constitutional principle that protecting life and property and promoting the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy,<sup>1</sup> by ensuring the responsible use of beacons, sirens, and other emergency vehicle lights and audio accessories while driving or

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<sup>1</sup> Philippine Constitution, art. II, sec. 5.

operating a motor vehicle. Further, the proposed measure provides mechanisms to enforce the high standards of conduct that apply to government officials and personnel, including standards on modest living and prioritizing public interest over personal gain, especially in shared and public spaces like Philippine roads.

The bill also provides definitions to clarify the scope of prohibited activities, distinguishing authorized use from unauthorized use of emergency vehicle equipment. The bill also imposes strict penalties, including fines and driver's license suspension, to discourage individuals from engaging in unlawful use of such devices.

To facilitate effective implementation, the measure assigns specific responsibilities to relevant government agencies, primarily the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the LTO, in collaboration with law enforcement bodies and local government units (LGUs). It also mandates comprehensive information campaigns to raise awareness about lawful use of emergency vehicle equipment and associated penalties.

In summary, this bill seeks to enhance road safety, uphold ethical standards in public service, and streamline regulations governing emergency vehicle lights and audio accessories. By establishing clear guidelines and enforcement mechanisms, the proposed law aims to promote orderly and secure roadways across the Philippines.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
JOEL VILLANUEVA <sup>RP</sup>

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
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Office of the Secretary

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**AN ACT**  
**PROHIBITING THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF BEACONS, SIRENS,**  
**AND OTHER EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHTS AND AUDIO**  
**ACCESSORIES FOR MOVING VEHICLES, EXCEPT AS PRESCRIBED**  
**BY LAW, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

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

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**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the Anti-Wang Wang Act.

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies.** – Pursuant to the Constitutional principle that recognizes the protection of life and property and the promotion of the general welfare as essential for the enjoyment of the blessings of democracy, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the safety of all road users through the observance of the responsible use of motor vehicles.

It is also the policy of the State to promote the highest standard of ethics in public service, and to ensure that public officials and personnel foster public trust by living modestly and prioritizing public interest over personal gain, especially in the use of shared spaces such as Philippine roads.

**SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (a) **Emergency Vehicle Light** refers to lights, other than headlights and taillights as defined under Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code, as amended, that are dedicated to convey urgency, warnings, or signaling during law enforcement and other authorized activities, including but not limited to rotating lights or beacons or dome lights, fixed flashing lights, strobe lights, and light-emitting diode

1 (LED) lighting, oscillating lights, blinkers, and shall also refer to after-  
2 marketing modifications such as wig-wag devices that are designed to  
3 flash the headlamps alternately or hideaway lights;  
4

5 (b) **Audio Accessory** refers to a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle or any other  
6 similar device and shall include a horn or signalling device that emits an  
7 exceptionally loud, startling, or disagreeable sound, other than the horn or  
8 signalling device built in the motor vehicle as defined and allowed under  
9 R.A. No. 4136, as amended; and

10  
11 (c) **Motor Vehicle** refers to any land transportation vehicle propelled by any  
12 power other than muscular power.  
13

14 **SEC. 4. Regulating the Use of Emergency Vehicle Lighting and Audio**  
15 **Accessories in Motor Vehicles. –**  
16

17 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person, including government officials and  
18 personnel, to use an emergency vehicle light or audio accessory while  
19 driving or operating a motor vehicle, or to attach such lights or audio  
20 accessories to or within the motor vehicle, except when authorized under  
21 Subsection 3 of this Section and subject to the conditions set forth in  
22 Subsections 4 or 5 of this Section, as applicable.  
23

24 (2) The prohibition under Subsection 1 of this Section shall apply to the owner  
25 of a private motor vehicle, or a government official or personnel to whom  
26 an official vehicle has been assigned for use, who permits the use of an  
27 emergency vehicle light or audio accessory while driving or operating a  
28 motor vehicle, or permits such lights or audio accessories to be attached  
29 to or within the motor vehicle. If any person uses an emergency vehicle  
30 light or audio accessory while driving or operating a motor vehicle that is  
31 not clearly marked as designated for official use under Subsection 3(a) of  
32 this Section or is not used to transport patients or victims, or for  
33 emergency purposes or calamity-related activities under Subsection 3(b)  
34 of this Section, the owner in case of a private motor vehicle or government  
35 official or personnel to whom an official vehicle has been assigned for use,  
36 shall be presumed to have permitted the use of such emergency vehicle  
37 light or audio accessory.  
38

39 (3) A person may, subject to the conditions set forth in Subsections 4 or 5 of  
40 this Section, as applicable, lawfully use an emergency vehicle light or  
41 audio accessory while driving or operating a motor vehicle that is:

42 (a) Designated for official use by the Armed Forces of the Philippines  
43 (AFP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and Philippine  
44 National Police (PNP), Bureau of Corrections (BuCoR), Bureau of  
45 Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and law enforcement  
46 agencies, and clearly marked as such, including but not limited to  
47 patrol vehicles, armored vehicles, and prisoner's vans; *Provided,*  
48 *That,* vehicles designated for official use by local government  
49 officials or personnel shall be subject to issuances by the respective  
50 local government units pursuant to Section 9 of this Act; or

1 (b) Necessary for the transportation of patients or victims, such as  
2 medical ambulances, or for emergency purposes or calamity-related  
3 activities, such as fire trucks operated by the Bureau of Fire  
4 Protection (BFP) or volunteer firefighter organizations, and clearly  
5 marked as such: *Provided, That*, volunteer firefighter organizations  
6 must obtain a permit from the BFP prior to using such lights and/or  
7 audio accessories; *Provided, Further*, that private healthcare  
8 facilities or organizations that will operate a private ambulance must  
9 obtain a similar permit from the Department of Health (DOH) prior to  
10 using such lights and/or audio accessories on any of its registered  
11 motor vehicles to be used as ambulances or for patient transport.

12  
13 (4) A person who is authorized to use an emergency vehicle light while driving  
14 or operating a motor vehicle pursuant to Subsection 3 of this Section shall  
15 not use such light or otherwise put it into operation, unless:

- 16 (a) The motor vehicle is coming to a stop or halted on a road;  
17 (b) It is necessary to do so for the safe operation of the motor vehicle;  
18 or  
19 (c) The vehicle presents a hazard to other vehicles on a road.

20  
21 (5) A person who is authorized to use an audio accessory while driving or  
22 operating a motor vehicle pursuant to Subsection 3 of this Section shall  
23 not use such audio accessory, except to warn other road users of the  
24 driver's intention to stop, abruptly reduce speed, turn, or change lanes.

25  
26 **SEC. 5. Prohibition on the Sale of Emergency Vehicle Lights and Audio**  
27 **Accessories. –**

28 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, import, distribute, sell,  
29 market, or promote an emergency vehicle light or audio accessory, except  
30 to volunteer firefighter organizations and private healthcare facilities or  
31 organizations that will operate a private ambulance upon presentation of  
32 the applicable BFP or DOH permit.

33  
34 (2) All manufacturers, importers, distributors, or sellers of an emergency  
35 vehicle light or audio accessory covered under this Act shall maintain  
36 records of completed sales permitted under this Section, which shall be  
37 open for inspection by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) subject to  
38 guidelines to be prescribed for this purpose.

39  
40 **SEC. 6. Implementation.**

41 (1) The DOTr, through the LTO, shall oversee and ensure the  
42 implementation of the provisions of this Act in coordination with the PNP  
43 through the Highway Patrol Group (HPG), BFP, DOH, and other  
44 concerned agencies. LTO enforcement officers and duly designated  
45 enforcement officers from other law enforcement agencies, including local  
46 government units (LGUs), shall be responsible for the enforcement of the  
47 provisions of this Act.

48  
49 (2) The LTO shall have the power to issue other policies, rules, regulations,  
50 and standards for the effective implementation of this Act, and shall

1 develop guidelines prescribing the procedure to enforce Sections 4 and 5  
2 of this Act within four (4) months from effectivity of this Act. The authority  
3 of the LTO under this Subsection shall include the power to regularly  
4 publish and update a list of devices that may be considered as emergency  
5 vehicle lights and audio accessories that are covered under this Act, with  
6 due regard to emerging technologies.

- 7  
8 (3) The LTO shall consolidate reports of violations committed by government  
9 officials or personnel and make recommendations for the institution of  
10 criminal and/or administrative cases against such officials or personnel for  
11 violations of the provisions of this Act, to the Office of the Ombudsman or  
12 agency, as may be applicable.

13  
14 **SEC. 7. Penalties.** – In addition to the penalties provided under existing laws,  
15 the following acts shall be penalized:

- 16  
17 (1) Any driver in violation of Section 4(1), Section 4(4), or Section 4(5) of this  
18 Act shall be fined One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for the first offense;  
19 Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) for the second offense; Five thousand  
20 pesos (P5,000.00) and suspension of the driver’s license for a period of  
21 one (1) year for the third and succeeding offenses: *Provided, That*, in case  
22 the driver of a private motor vehicle is not the owner of the vehicle, the  
23 owner shall be solidarily liable with the driver for the fine/s imposed under  
24 this subsection; *Provided, Further*, that in case a government official or  
25 personnel to whom an official vehicle has been designated for use, is not  
26 the driver or a passenger of such vehicle, he/she shall be solidarily liable  
27 with the driver of the motor vehicle for the fine imposed under this  
28 Subsection, in addition to administrative and other sanctions and penalties  
29 that may apply under prevailing laws, rules, and regulations, such as but  
30 not limited to Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as Code of Conduct  
31 and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.
- 32  
33 (2) Any manufacturer, distributor, importer, retailer, or seller who violates  
34 Section 5 of this Act shall be punished with a fine of not less than Fifty  
35 thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand  
36 pesos (P100,000.00) for each and every emergency vehicle light or audio  
37 accessory that is manufactured, distributed, imported and/or sold, without  
38 prejudice to other penalties imposed under Republic Act No. 7394  
39 otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

40  
41 **SEC. 8. Safe Use of Roads for Transporting Patients, Victims, and for**  
42 **Other Public Security Purposes.** – The LTO shall conduct a study on road  
43 use and traffic management strategies for the safe transportation of patients  
44 and victims, or for conducting emergency or disaster response, and make  
45 necessary recommendations to Congress for other safety measures: *Provided,*  
46 *That*, the LTO shall ensure that such measures safeguard the safety of all types  
47 of road users; *Provided, Further*, that such measures shall ensure the highest  
48 affordable protection to pedestrians, cyclists, and road users travelling on public  
49 or mass transportation vehicles and active modes of transportation.

1 The LTO shall conduct the study within one (1) year from the effectivity of this  
2 Act, and shall furnish a copy of the results of such study to the President and  
3 the Congress of the Philippines.

4  
5 **SEC. 9. Local Government Units. –**

6 (1) LGUs, through appropriate ordinances, shall enforce mechanisms to  
7 implement the provisions of this Act, subject to the provisions of Republic  
8 Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991,  
9 and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations. The LTO, in  
10 coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government  
11 (DILG), shall provide the technical support to LGUs for the development  
12 of such issuances.

13  
14 (2) LGUs shall regularly report apprehended violators to the LTO for the  
15 appropriate recording of demerits pursuant to the Implementing Rules and  
16 Regulations of Republic Act No. 10930 or An Act Rationalizing and  
17 Strengthening the Policy Regarding Driver's Licenses by Extending the  
18 Validity Period of Driver's Licenses, and Penalizing Acts in Violation of Its  
19 Issuance and Application, Amending for Those Purposes Section 23 of  
20 Republic Act No. 4136, as Amended by Batas Pambansa Blg. 398 and  
21 Executive Order No. 1011, Otherwise Known as the Land Transportation  
22 and Traffic Code, and other applicable laws, rules and regulations, and for  
23 purposes of making recommendations for the institution of appropriate  
24 administrative and/or criminal proceedings pursuant to Section 6 of this  
25 Act.

26  
27 **SEC. 10. Information, Education, and Communications Campaign.**

28  
29 (1) The DOTr, PNP, BFP, DOH, Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in  
30 partnership with organizations from the private sector, civil society, and  
31 academe shall undertake regular nationwide Information, Education and  
32 Communication (IEC) campaign within six (6) months from the passage  
33 of this Act. The IEC campaign shall include information on the emergency  
34 vehicle lights and audio accessories that are covered under this Act, and  
35 the permitted use of such lights and audio accessories and relevant  
36 processes.

37  
38 (2) The DOTr may call upon any government agency and partner with  
39 relevant organizations from the private sector, civil society, and academe,  
40 to extend their full support and cooperation for the implementation of this  
41 Act.

42  
43 **SEC. 11. Annual Report. –** The DOTr shall conduct a periodic review of the  
44 implementation of this Act, including enforcement by other government  
45 agencies and LGUs, and submit a report on such review to the President and  
46 Congress of the Philippines not later than June 30 of each year.

47  
48 **SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. –** Within four (4) months from  
49 the effectivity of this Act, the DOTr, LTO, PNP-HPG, all concerned agencies,

1 upon prior consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing  
2 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

3  
4 **SEC. 13. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of  
5 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

6  
7 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations  
8 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, including but not limited to issuances  
9 promulgated by the LTO, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and  
10 other agencies, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

11  
12 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
13 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other  
14 provisions hereof.

15  
16 **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
17 publication in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

18  
19 **Approved,**