


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

8 OCT 27 1976

SENATE
S. B. No. 2692

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public transportation is an essential element in the development of our country. Public transportation is still the preferred mode of most of our countrymen especially recently when the increasing price of fuel made private transportation less practical. It is also essential to our tourism industry since it allows the tourists to travel around the country.

Regrettably, many of the taxi drivers and operators abuse the reliance of our countrymen and tourist. Many drivers and operators devise schemes to increase their earnings sacrificing goodwill and quality of service along the way. We need to enact a law to protect our commuting public, citizens and tourists alike from predatory practices of some taxi drivers and operators and raise the service standards. By doing so, we would establish better public perception to the taxi service industry in general.

This bill seeks to acknowledge the rights of taxi passengers and penalizes both driver and the operator of the taxi cab who violates these rights.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT
2 ESTABLISHING THE RIGHTS OF TAXI PASSENGERS

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Taxi Passenger Bill of
6 Rights Act.”

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It shall be the policy of the State to establish
8 a world class public transportation system. To this end, the State shall establish
9 transportation service standards that shall address the basic rights of the passengers as
10 maybe provided by law.

11 SECTION 3. *Rights of Taxi Passengers* – Taxi Passengers shall have the right to:

- 12 A. Be picked up and transported to their stated destination by any available
13 on duty taxi driver, subject to applicable traffic regulations;
- 14 B. A fare meter duly calibrated and sealed by proper authorities;
- 15 C. A properly dressed and courteous driver who provides assistance, if
16 requested;
- 17 D. Travel with an assistance dog or portable mobility aid;
- 18 E. A taxi that is clean, smoke free and in good repair;
- 19 F. Direct the route, or expect the most economical route;
- 20 G. See the taxi meter;
- 21 H. Refuse multiple hiring;
- 22 I. Have the air conditioning on or off;

- 1 J. See the driver's identification card;
- 2 K. A quiet atmosphere, upon request;
- 3 L. Pay the rate exactly as posted in the meter, subject to other government
4 sanctioned fees; and
- 5 M. A detailed receipt, when requested.

6 SECTION 4. *Taxi Passengers' Rights Notification.* — The taxi passengers' rights
7 as enumerated in Section 3 shall be prominently displayed in the taxi cab. Such
8 notification shall also contain a brief description of the procedure on how to file a
9 complaint for violation of any of the rights enumerated as well as the necessary contact
10 information provided by LTFRB to handle such complaints.

11 SECTION 5. *Period of Implementation.* — The Land Transportation and
12 Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) shall be the agency primarily responsible in
13 the enforcement and implementation of this Act. Within sixty (60) days from the
14 effectivity of this Act, the LTFRB shall formulate and issue the necessary implementing
15 rules, regulations and guidelines and shall mobilize available resources to assure the
16 effective implementation of this Act: Provided, That the LTFRB or its successor tasked
17 with the implementation of this Act may require the use of special car seats for infants, if
18 it is deemed necessary.

19 SECTION 6. *Penalties and Fines.* — In the enforcement of this Act, the LTFRB
20 shall impose fines against drivers and operators, solidarily, for violation of this Act.

21 The following shall be the basis in defining fine and penalty provisions of the IRR
22 to be promulgated pursuant to Section 11 hereof, provided that six (6) months grace
23 period shall be allowed to lapse to conduct a nationwide information campaign.

- 24 A. For failure to observe any of the rights enumerated in Section 3, a
25 minimum fine of Five hundred pesos (P500) but not to exceed Two thousand
26 pesos (P2,000) for the first violation; a minimum fine of One thousand pesos

1 (P1000) but not to exceed Five thousand pesos (P5,000) for the second
2 violation; and a minimum fine of Three thousand pesos (P3000) but not to
3 exceed Ten thousand pesos (P10,000) and suspension of driver's license
4 and/or the Certificate of Public Convenience for a period of one (1) week for
5 the third and succeeding violations;

6 B. For non-compliance on the requirement under Section 4, a minimum fine
7 of One thousand (P1,000) but not to exceed Five thousand pesos (P3,000) for
8 every violation.

9 SECTION 7. *Nationwide Public Information Campaign.* —

10 A. The LTFRB, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency
11 (PIA) the Department of Education and private agencies and organizations,
12 shall undertake a regular nationwide Information, Education and
13 Communication (IEC) campaign for the attainment of the objectives of this
14 Act.

15 B. The LTFRB, in coordination with the local government units, shall
16 likewise utilize the services of citizen groups and community organizations
17 for the promotion of public safety awareness in observance of this Act.

18 C. The fines that will be collected for the enforcement of this Act shall be
19 used exclusively for the implementation of the provisions of this Act,
20 including the necessary information campaigns.

21 SECTION 8. *Appropriations* - The amount necessary for the initial
22 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the LTFRB
23 under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary
24 for its full implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as
25 a distinct and separate item.

1 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid
2 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
3 remain valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
5 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to
6 or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
7 accordingly.

8 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
9 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

10 Approved,

/apm101708