

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1884



Introduced by Honorable Consuelo A. Dy

Explanatory Note

Contracting passengers instead of using taximeters, choosing or refusing to convey passengers especially upon learning of their short destinations, arrogance, discourtesy, installing fast meters are common complaints that are reported to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) against taxi drivers.

To date, with the lightness of penalties imposed on these abuses, law enforcement personnel deplore the fact that after apprehension and the payment of fees, some erring taxi drivers are back on the road committing similar or the same violations with impunity.

Conversely, taxi operators complain regularly of apprehensions for violations of LTFRB rules that are not known or clear to them and their drivers. A case in point is the lingering problem with the Tamaraw FX, Isuzu Hi-Lander, Mitsubishi Adventure and similar Asian Utility Vehicles that are used as taxi units.

This proposed measure is designed to put together relevant regulations and combine them with new and responsive ones for the smooth operation of taxi units.


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AN ACT REGULATING THE OPERATION OF TAXI AND MEGA TAXI UNITS

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

Section 1. *Title* – This Act shall be known as the “Taxi Regulation Act of 2004”.

Section 2. *Definition of Terms*

Taxi – any four or five-door automobiles for public transport service whose model year is not more than ten years old, with maximum 4 passengers excluding driver, route is not fixed but within a specified area, with ventilation that may either be ordinary or air-conditioned;

Mega Taxi – any Asian Utility Vehicle or van for public transport whose model year is not more than ten years old, with seating capacity of 7 to 14 including driver, consistent with the maximum payload capacity of the vehicle and space availability for cargoes, with no fixed route within a specified area, with ordinary or air-conditioned ventilation;

Taxi meter – an instrument for use in a taxi for automatically showing the fare due.

Section 3. *Fare System*

- (1) For taxi – The fare shall have a minimum rate plus fee per unit distance and unit time;
- (2) For mega taxi – The fare shall be fixed and determined by the LTFRB and the Land Transportation Office thirty (30) days upon the approval of this Act.

Drivers of both taxi and mega taxi shall be required to issue receipts to all passengers indicating the distance traveled and the corresponding fare.

Section 4. *Uniform for taxi and mega taxi drivers* - All taxi operators shall require their drivers to wear while driving, white polo shirts with collar and with name patches on left breast sides, and long pants. All drivers are likewise required to wear shoes while driving.

Taxi operators whose drivers are already with uniforms of a different color at the time of the effectivity of this Act may be exempted from this provision.

Section 5. *Advertising on Taxi and Mega Taxi Units*

- (1) All requests for installation of advertising matter on taxi or mega taxi units shall be formally filed with the LTFRB.
- (2) A filing fee of Php 200.00 for the first five (5) units and Php 50.00 per unit in excess of five (5) units shall be charged for each application filed.
- (3) The validity of the authority shall be for a period of one (1) year from the date of the approval, renewable for another one (1) year period upon expiration and payment of the amount stated in the preceding provision.

- (4) The overall dimension of the advertising sign to be mounted on the roof of the taxi or mega taxi unit should not exceed fourteen (14) inches in height and thirty six (36) inches in overall length.
- (5) Details of the design, dimension, material and mounting should be submitted to the LTFRB for approval.
- (6) All advertising matters to be installed shall be subject to the approval of the LTFRB.
- (7) In no case shall the advertising sign obscure any markings required by the LTFRB.

Section 6. *Violations*

It shall be unlawful for any taxi or mega taxi driver and operator to:

- (a) refuse to convey passengers on the basis of the passenger's destination, size or built and number of baggage or luggage;
- (b) deliberately not use the taxi meter;
- (c) use fast, tampered, defective or non-operational taximeter
- (d) use tampered, broken, joined, reconnected, fake or altered sealing wire of the taxi meter;
- (e) not be in uniform;
- (f) be discourteous or arrogant to passengers;
- (g) not to use seatbelts;
- (h) not to issue receipts;
- (i) install advertising signs without a permit;
- (j) use unauthorized commercial or business name or allowing another to use his commercial or business name;
- (k) engage in "kabit system" or the multiple use of taxi units under one (1) franchise.

Section 7. *Penalty*

Violations of any provisions of this Act shall be fined and penalized according to the following schedule:

1st offense - confiscation of the driver's license and three (3) months suspension plus a Php 2,000.00 fine

2nd offense - confiscation of driver's license and six (6) months suspension plus a Php 3,000.00 fine

3rd offense - revocation of the driver's license and franchise plus a Php 5,000.00 fine

Section 8. All laws, rules and regulations, decrees, issuances or any part thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,