Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1927

Introduced by **Honorable Robert Ace S. Barbers**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Optimizing the utilization of government resources is one way of keeping the government's budget deficit in check. The national budget for the year 2004 provides for strict control of disbursing possible funds by various departments, agencies and instrumentalities of government. Included in the measure is a moratorium on the purchase of new government vehicles which had been incorporated in the P864.8 billion General Appropriations Act for the year 2004.

This budget measure prohibits the purchase of motor vehicles, except ambulances; military and police patrol vehicles and construction equipment, Providing fuel, parts, repair and maintenance to any government vehicle not properly identified as a government vehicle and does not sport its official government licensed plates is also considered illegal under this measure, except for the vehicles used by the President, Vice-President, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Senate President and Speaker of the House. It is the implied intention of Congress in the General Provisions of the 2004 national budget to ensure that government vehicles are solely used as official conveyances for the efficient delivery of public service.

An opt response to this common abuse committed by government officials on the use of government office vehicles, therefore, is a bill prohibits 1) the use of government vehicles for security back up provided for among designated government officials, and 2) use of government vehicles for personal purposes.

It is in this regard that a law specifying and focusing on the prohibition of government officials in using government vehicles in other unrelated activities aside from its intended purpose be crafted towards institutionalizing a culture of prudence and economy in the entire government bureaucracy. Thus in view of the urgent need to oversight the taxpayers' money, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought and prayed.

REP. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS

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AN ACT RESTRICTING THE USE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES TO OFFICIAL USE . PROVIDING CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS AND PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Government Vehicle Utilization Act of 2004."

SECTION 3. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to efficiently employ and effectively safeguard the resources of government by optimizing the use of vehicles issued among various departments, entities, government owned and controlled corporations, local government units and other various instrumentalities pursuant to the time-honored dictum that a public office is a public trust requiring the full utilization of government vehicles as official conveyances for the delivery of public service and not to be held as a private property at the disposal of bureaucrats or of those at the helm of command.

SECTION 3. **Government Vehicles Used as Security Back Up.** - It is hereby declared unlawful for any public official, whether serving an appointive or elective position, to employ vehicles sporting government licenses plates or security plates, or any other vehicle owned by Philippine government, as security back up vehicles.

SECTION 4. **Government Vehicles Used for Personal Purposes.** - It is likewise hereby declared unlawful for any public officials or employees to use government owned vehicles for personal purposes or any other purpose than that for which it was intended, and during non-working days and holidays.

SECTION 5. **Appropriate Marking.** All government-owned vehicles, except those falling under the exemptions provided for under this Act, shall be marked on both sides by respective agencies, entities, and instrumentalities using them, with the phrase "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY", in bold letters Five (5) inches in height and half (1/2) thick, and with the name of the office, agency or entity by which such vehicles are assigned.

SECTION 6. **Appropriate License Plates and Registration.** All government-owned vehicles shall at all times sport the government issued red plates, or the security plates with the red stickers whenever applicable. In no case shall a government vehicle be used without current registration.

SECTION 7. **Repairs and Maintenance, and Fuel Allocation.** No cost of repairs, maintenance, or fuel allocation, shall be extended or reimbursed to any public officials or employees for vehicles assigned to them or used by them for purposes other than official and authorized. Nor will these costs or allocation be extended or reimbursed, if the vehicles used do not bear the appropriate markings, the appropriate license plates, and are not currently registered.

SECTION 8. **Exemptions.** - In recognition of their varying official circumstances or positions, the following government high-ranking officials are deemed automatically exempted from all expressed provisions of this Act: the Chief Executive, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House of representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines; Provided, however, That in cases where the life of any public official and those of his immediate family are under threat of imminent danger and when national security so demands, as may be determined by the President, the same may secure exemption from these prohibitions.

SECTION 9. **Penalty for Non-Compliance.** - Any public official or employee found to have violated any of the provisions of this Act shall be meted the minimum penalty of THIRTY (30) days imprisonment to a maximum penalty of SIX (6) MONTHS IMPRISONMENT, in addition to the payment of damages to the government and the cost of the vehicle or repairs done on the vehicle if as a result of their violation, the vehicle sustained damages or rendered unserviceable.

SECTION 10. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with this Act, are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

APPROVED.