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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3551



Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2 of R.A. No. 7304, otherwise known as the "Consumer Act of the Philippines," provides that it is the policy of the state to protect the interests of the consumer, promote his general welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry.

In pursuance of the said state policy, all shopping malls, markets, hotels and similar commercial establishments, are required to provide a free parking area to its clientele.

There is, however, a barrage of complaints from the public about the prevalent practice of most commercial establishments and shopping centers to charge and collect parking fees from customers who use their parking areas, notwithstanding the fact that they are patrons of said establishments. The customers have no choice but to accept the terms and conditions, printed in small letters at the back of the parking ticket, which are often unconscionable, lopsided and disadvantageous to them, thus, depriving them of their rights as consumers.

Moreover, commercial centers and shopping mall management always deny responsibility for loss of any vehicle or any personal property left inside the car, even if the carjacking or robbery occurred inside their guarded parking area.

In order to protect the consumers, approval of the attached bill is urgently urged.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Harlin Cast. Abayon".

HARLIN CAST. ABAYON

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3551

Introduced by Rep. HARLIN CAST. ABAYON

AN ACT REQUIRING OWNERS OF SHOPPING MALLS, MARKETS, HOTELS AND OTHER SIMILAR COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PARKING AREAS FOR THEIR CLIENTELE, PROHIBITING THE EXACTION OF PARKING FEES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the state to protect the interests of consumers, promote their general welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry.

SEC. 2. In pursuance to such policy it is mandated that owners of shopping malls, hotels, markets and other similar commercial establishments, to provide adequate parking areas for their clientele and prohibiting the exaction of parking fees thereof.

SEC. 3. Any person violating the provision of the preceding section shall be fined of not less than fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years, or both fine and imprisonment upon the discretion of the court. If the offender is a corporation, organization or any similar entity, the officials thereof directly involved shall be liable therefore.

SEC. 4. Any law, presidential decree, executive orders and rules and regulations or parts thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the provision of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.