

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2933

Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to commend our Filipino Drivers, for being obedient to traffic rules and regulations, for having driven their vehicles without any traffic violation for the past three (3) years. This will promote safe driving behavior and enforce road rules which will benefit the entire community and make roads safer for all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

“The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.”

For many years, the nation has always been concerned with several road accidents due to reckless driving. These accidents have been happening on a daily basis primarily due to reckless drivers and as a consequence many innocent passengers and pedestrians have lost their lives.

With more than 92 million people, the Philippines is the world's 12th most populous country and it faces this growing problem on road accidents. In 2008, the number of reported road accidents rose by 28.3 percent reaching 14,794 from 11,532 in 2007, according to official statistics. Unreported road accidents were estimated to be about nine times higher than what was actually recorded, as reported by the **Balita**, a national Philippines news outlet.

Deaths due to road crashes reached 624 in the first half of 2009, and went up by 8.7 percent from 573 a year ago, according to the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC). This upward trend will continue unless some action is taken by the government to reduce this.

It is in this regard that the government should consider a Reward Scheme for good drivers so that drivers who obey the law are given some incentive for showing respect and obedience to traffic rules and regulations. If a tiny percentage of the fines from reckless drivers could be redistributed to drivers who stay within the limits, this could become a potent weapon in the war against reckless motorists.

It is about time that we encourage our drivers to drive cautiously and carefully and exercise utmost diligence on the road. Good motorists should be rewarded for keeping the speed limit and following traffic rules.

Motorists would be much more likely to adhere to speed limits and this would be a timely innovation for us to start rewarding good citizens.

Hence, those who have not committed safety related traffic offenses for a three (3) year period prior to the renewal of their Driver's license will be given a fifty (50%) per cent discount on the cost of renewing their license.

Drivers will be informed that they have a discounted license renewal through a letter of "Congratulations" from the LTO informing them of their license renewal notice. If eligible, the license renewal notice amount will already reflect the reward discount.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
Senior Citizen Party List

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A REWARD SCHEME FOR DESERVING
FILIPINO DRIVERS

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 *“THE REWARD SCHEME OF 2010.”*

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

“The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.”

Consonant with these constitutional principle, the following are the Declared Policies of this Act:

- (a) To take cognizance of the importance and achievements of Filipino drivers who have not committed any traffic violation for the past three (3) years; and
- b) To recognize the vital role of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to actively seek their partnership so it can give its full support to achieve this purpose;

In accordance with these policies, this Act aims to:

(1) adopt measures whereby the Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall give due commendation to Filipino drivers who have not committed any violation for the past three (3) years, which shall be clearly recorded in the LTO's record ; and

(2) establish a policy or program towards the achievement of this objective.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

(a) "Commendation" is the act of commending drivers; to mention as worthy of regard and praise for not having committed any traffic violation for the past three (3) years;

(b) "Land Transportation Office" shall mean the Transportation Office in the Philippines that provide transportation laws, rules and regulations;

(c) "Metropolitan Manila Development Authority" shall mean an agency of the Republic of the Philippines created, embracing the cities of Manila, Quezon City, Caloocan, Pasay, Mandaluyong, Makati, Pasig, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Valenzuela, Malabon, Taguig, Navotas and San Juan and the municipality of Pateros which comprise Metropolitan Manila or the National Capital Region constituted into a special development and administrative region subject to direct supervision of the President of the Philippines which performs planning, monitoring and coordinative functions, and in the process exercise regulatory and supervisory authority over the delivery of metro-wide services within Metro Manila without diminution of the autonomy of the local government units concerning purely local matters.

(d) "Eligibility period" shall mean the three (3) year period prior to the renewal of a driver's license which is calculated from the expiry date of the driver's license.

Section 4. *Who may be entitled to the Reward Scheme* – Those registered Filipino drivers, who have not committed any traffic violation during the eligibility period.

Section 5. *Manner of Implementing the Reward Scheme.* – Every Filipino driver, who has not committed any traffic violation during the

eligibility period will be given a fifty (50%) per cent discount on the cost of renewing his license by the LTO.

Section 6. Who are ineligible in the Reward Scheme - The following are the main road safety offense categories that result in a license holder being ineligible under the Scheme:

- Drunk Driving and Drug Driving;
- Speed Offenses ;
- Seat Belt/Occupant and Restraint Offenses;
- Unlicensed, Unauthorized and Disqualified Driving;
- Traffic Offenses Causing Death, Damage or Injury ;
- Hit and Run and Accident Related Offenses;
- Dangerous and Reckless Driving Offenses;
- Failure to obey traffic signs/signals;
- Breach of Novice Driver/Rider Conditions;
- Unregistered vehicle use; and
- Other related offenses as prescribed by the LTO, existing laws and City Ordinance/s.

Section 7. Duty of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) – The LTO is directed to issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act and monitor and record those Filipino drivers who have not committed any traffic violation for the past three (3) years as well as those who have committed those offenses mentioned in Section 6 hereof. It shall inform Filipino drivers that they have a discounted license renewal through a letter of “**Congratulations**” included with the **license renewal notice** which will already reflect the reward discount.

Section 8. Duty of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) – The MMDA is directed to report all drivers who have committed traffic violations within their jurisdiction to the LTO within seventy-two (72) hours from the time the driver was caught for the traffic offense, to enable the LTO to have a complete record of those violators who will be considered ineligible under the Reward Scheme.

Section 9. Government Assistance. –

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) shall cooperate and work hand in hand to implement and institute policies and programs in pursuance of the objectives of this Act.

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) shall have the following functions:

- (a) To plan, implement and monitor yearly programs in pursuance of the objectives of this Act; and
- (b) To serve as a General Information and Liaison Center and monitor compliance of the provisions of this Act ;

Section 10. **LTO Responsibility.** – It shall be the responsibility of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to prominently display posters, stickers, and other notices that will generate public awareness of this Act and ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented to its fullest.

Section 11. **Partnership of the National and Local Government Units.** – The national government and local government units shall undertake to ensure the implementation of this Act in their respective territorial jurisdictions.

Section 12. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act in consultation and coordination with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Section 13. **Appropriation.** – The necessary appropriation for the operation of this Act shall be appropriated and approved by the Land Transportation Office. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act upon its effectivity shall be charged out of the funds of the Office of the President. Thereafter, any such sum as shall be needed for the regular implementation of this Act shall be included in subsequent General Appropriations Act following its enactment into law.

Section 14. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
Senior Citizen Party List