

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3960

Introduced by Representatives Michael M. Velarde and William Irwin Tieng
(BUHAY Party List)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

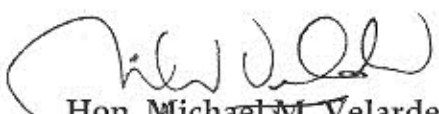
The infamous Luneta Bus Hostage-Taking, last August of 2010, severely tarnished our country's image not only with respect to tourism, but also our capability of ensuring safety in our public transportation. The Cotabato Bus Bombing during October of last year, which killed ten people and wounded thirty, is yet another proof of our inability to safeguard the riding public. In the news, we are wary, and hopefully fed up, of bus accidents, that kill hundreds, resulting from either faulty motor parts or, simply, from the negligence of both driver and operator.

It is for these reasons, and many other bus-related tragedies, that the urgent need to zero-in on the safety of our public utility buses arises. Without a doubt, these buses play a crucial role in our public land transportation system.

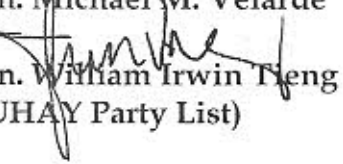
In this light, it is believed that the deployment of bus marshals will promote the safety of public utility buses. With a marshal on board each public bus, petty crooks thinking twice, terror plots derailed, and reckless drivers disciplined, are just a few of the consequences surely welcomed by the riding public.

We cannot afford to sit back, relax, and watch our public utility bus system crumble. For indeed, a safe public utility bus system is an element of an organized and progressive modern society.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



Hon. Michael M. Velarde



Hon. William Irwin Tieng
(BUHAY Party List)

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AN ACT DEPLOYING POLICE PERSONNEL TO ACT AS MARSHALS IN ALL
PUBLIC UTILITY BUSES

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 "*Police Bus Marshals Act of 2011.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall be the policy of the State to promote safety and discipline in the public utility bus sector for the benefit of not only the riding public but of all road users as well.

SEC. 3. *Deployment of Police Officers as Bus Marshals.* - Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel shall be assigned to all operating buses throughout the country. This assignment shall ensure that a marshal oversees a public utility bus for the duration of its entire operation.

SEC. 4. *Deputy Civilian Marshals.* - The PNP shall be authorized to deputize and train qualified civilians to act as bus marshals and reinforce the police personnel assigned to marshal the public utility buses.

SEC. 5. *Plain Clothing While On Duty.* - In order to induce an atmosphere of normalcy, bus marshals shall wear plain clothing while on duty. Such clothing, however, shall distinguish them from the riding public.

SEC. 6. - *Duties and Responsibilities.* - The Police Bus Marshal shall be tasked to maintain peace and order inside the public utility bus during its operation and shall also ensure that such bus follows traffic rules and regulations strictly.

SEC. 7. *Inventory of Public Utility Buses.* - The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), in coordination with the Land Transportation Office (LTO), shall submit to the PNP an inventory of the public utility buses operating throughout the country. Said inventory shall contain an indication of the owner of the franchise involved, the bus routes plied, and the Local Government Unit having jurisdiction of the respective routes, among others.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in collaboration with the PNP, shall formulate the necessary

guidelines and promulgate rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

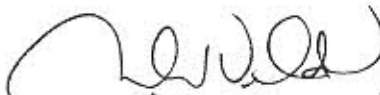
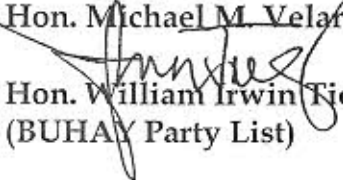
SEC. 9. *Appropriation.* - Such sums as may be necessary for the immediate implementation of the provisions of this Act are hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, funds for its implementation shall be included in the regular appropriations of the DILG and the PNP.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation,

Approved,


Hon. Michael M. Velarde

Hon. William Irwin Tieng
(BUHAY Party List)