

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

House Bill No. **4404**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When traveling, it cannot be denied that there are times that things happen that are outside the control of the traveler, people get sick, some important work or meeting comes up, accidents occur. All these things could make a traveler miss his flight or require that such be rebooked.

And when this happens, airline companies are smiling because they reap the benefits of a person missing his flight. In some instances, some airlines consider the ticket forfeited and hence, no refund is made. They allow cancellations or rebookings but the traveler would have to pay huge amounts as service fees, rebooking fees or cancellation fees. These fees usually range from USD50 to USD200.

For cancellation fees, the average cost is USD 100. For rebooking fees, the average cost would go from USD50 to USD200 for international flights and around P1,000 for domestic flights depending on the destination plus the fare difference between the cancelled ticket and the new one. Airlines also charge a no-show fee of an average of USD100 for international flights and around 600 pesos for local flights. Aside from these, there is also a re-issuance fee of an average of USD25.

All these fees make it very onerous for travelers to cancel or rebook flights despite having valid reasons or emergencies.

Also, it has become common practice for airline companies to offer discounted rates for various flights both international and domestic. Some airline companies even offer one peso fare for flights. This is a very welcome practice for the travelling public. However, in many instances, the public get deceived because

while there are indeed discounted rates, more often than not, these airline companies only reserve very few seats per flight for these promo fares. The public is not even informed how many seats are reserved for these promos. In line with the concept of truth in advertising, airlines companies should also now be required to indicate in their advertisements for these promo fares exactly how many seats will be allocated in order to inform the public.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ



MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS IN THE PRACTICE OF AIRLINE
COMPANIES OF TICKETING, REBOOKING AND ADVERTISING OF PROMO
FARES

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby prohibited for airline companies operating in the Philippines to charge a rebooking fee of more than Two Hundred Pesos (P200).

Cancellation fees, no show fees or any other penalties related to cancellation and rebooking of flights should not exceed Three Hundred Pesos (P300).

SEC 2. It is hereby likewise prohibited for airline companies to enforce a forfeiture policy whereby a passenger who has bought a ticket but misses his flight is not allowed or cannot rebook his ticket nor be refunded the fare amount.

SEC 3. Airlines companies are hereby mandated to state in their advertisements the exact number of seat per flight that they have allocated for their promo fares.

SEC 4. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 5. Repealing Clause. – Any law, decree, ordinance or administrative order not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby declared amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 6. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,