

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4504

Introduced by Representative ARNEL U. TY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to improve the working conditions of drivers of bus as a public utility vehicle (PUV) by providing them with a fixed monthly income and incentives.

By virtue of the fixed monthly income, bus drivers will no longer be subjected to extended working hours and unfair practices of public transport operators who are profit oriented. It has been reported that drivers of bus, as a PUV, earn their income either on commission basis or from the "boundary" system where they get what is left from net profit of bus operators (i.e. gross income minus amortization of bus, gasoline and vehicle maintenance).

These bus drivers have no option but to accept longer working hours, varying work shifts and participate in aggressive competition risking and endangering the safety not only of their passengers and commuters but also public and private properties. Harsh working conditions and self-imposed targets for quotas to earn bigger commissions often lead to reckless driving, vehicular accidents and deaths.

Much has been said about the recklessness of drivers of bus, as a and the long list of casualties but it is also opportune to look into their actual working conditions and the situations they face in order to provide the basic needs of their families. Drivers of bus, as a public utility vehicle, should be acknowledged as part of the working force who need to be equally protected under the Labor Code and be given salaries and benefits due them. For these reasons, immediate approval of this bill is highly recommended.

ARNEL U. TY
LPGMA Partylist

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FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4594

Introduced by Representative ARNEL U. TY

**AN ACT REGULATING THE COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC UTILITY
VEHICLE DRIVERS BY REQUIRING PUBLIC TRANSPORT
OPERATORS TO PAY THEM FIXED MONTHLY SALARIES AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF**

*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
Bus Drivers and Safety Act of 2011.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared as the
policy of the State to uphold the safety of the commuters and the
general public and the rights of bus drivers. Towards this end, the
State shall ensure that transport operators and bus drivers are
adequately trained in safe driving techniques.

**SEC. 3. Creation and Implementation of a Bus Drivers
Safety Program** – The Land Transportation Franchising and
Regulatory Board (LTFRB) with the assistance of Technical Education
and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall Develop and
implement a nationwide Bus Driver Safety Program (Program). All
persons who want to work as a driver of a bus as a public utility
vehicle shall undergo and pass this Program. Once the driver has
passed this Program, the LTFRB shall issue a certification bearing
such information.

SEC. 4. Coverage - All persons who have been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a bus as a public utility vehicle shall employ only bus drivers who passed the Program and have been issued a certification. They shall pay such drivers for work performed a fixed monthly salary which shall not be less than the minimum wage fixed by law, plus benefits and incentives, Provided that a bus driver shall not be required and/or allowed to work for more than sixteen (16) hours a day.

SEC. 5. Penalty - For any violation of this Act, the operator of any public utility vehicle service shall be fined not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) and suspension of the franchise to operate, Provided, That the suspension of the franchise to operate shall only be made until such time that the operator has complied and paid the drivers of their back wages and appropriate benefits.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Chairman of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor and Employment, issue the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid, or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause - All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the

provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.