

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 797



Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many taxi drivers do not allow commuters to ride on their taxis if the places of destination are not to their liking. This bill seeks to encourage taxi drivers to honor the law and bear always in mind that the contract of carriage and the obligation of common carriers is at all times visited with public interest. This measure was previously filed by Senator Villar in the 15th Congress. Passage of this bill is earnestly requested now in the 16th Congress.


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

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AN ACT
PENALIZING THE CHARGING OF TAXI FARES WHICH ARE HIGHER THAN
THE OFFICIAL RATES, THE FAILURE TO USE THE TAXI METERS, OR THE
REFUSAL TO CARRY TAXI PASSENGERS, WITHOUT CAUSE, TO THEIR
PLACES OF DESTINATION

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

SECTION 1. Any person who charges taxi fares which are higher than the official rates, or who does not use the taxi meter system in charging a passenger his fare, or who, without valid cause, refuses or does not carry or bring any person to his place of destination shall, after due process, be penalized with a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Ten Thousand Pesos (10,000.00) and shall be suspended from driving for a period not less than one (1) year but not more than five (5) years. Any subsequent violation of the foregoing acts shall be penalized with a permanent disqualification of the offender from driving a common carrier.

SECTION 2. (a) The common carrier or operator of the vehicle violating Section 1 hereof shall be penalized with a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (10,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00). (b) The vehicle involved in the violation under Section 1 hereof shall be impounded and be in the custody of the appropriate government agency which has the authority to license common carriers for a period of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months.

SECTION 3. The investigation or hearing of any complaint under this Act shall be summary in nature and without regard to technicalities of law or procedure, all in the interest of due process; Provided, that the operator or common carrier shall be duly notified of the same.

SECTION 4. The liability under this Act shall be independent from, and be without prejudice to,

any liability under other laws.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of Transportation and Telecommunications is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,