

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **850**



Introduced by Representative Alfredo D. Vargas III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The granting of student fare discounts in the recent times are authorized only through a circular issued by the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

In this measure, this representation seeks to institutionalize the grant of a fixed fare discount to qualified students on land, water and air transportation utilities throughout the year, except during transitional period, i.e. summer vacation.

This bill seeks to address economic concerns and the alarming rate of school drop-outs. This will alleviate the burden of the parents and guardians in the financial support given to the students with due consideration to the continued rise in the cost of education in the country, including their incidental expenses, e.g. transportation costs.

Said fare discount privilege will be made available to qualified students even during Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas vacation and other holidays to inspire our students to engage in academic, extra-curricular and civic activities during these days. In this scenario, we can expect holistic growth of our students, our hope for the future. Due consideration is also given to those students undergoing internships, trainings and other activities covered by their curricula.

This measure is an effort and initiative of the Honorable Juan Edgardo Angara, Senator of the Republic, while he was on his term as Representative of the Lone District of Aurora.

Approval therefore is highly recommended.


ALFREDO D. VARGAS III

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES
ON LAND, WATER AND AIR TRANSPORT UTILITIES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. Pursuant to Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all," In addition, Paragraph 3, Section 2 of said Article directs the State to establish and maintain a system at scholarship grants, students loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives, which shall be available to deserving students in both public and public schools, especially to the underprivileged.

SEC. 2. Purpose. Consistent with these Constitutional mandates, this Act aims to :

- a). To establish a mechanism that ensures the mandatory grant of tire discount privilege to deserving students.
- b). To enlist the cooperation and/or support of transport utility owners to extend assistance to deserving students as a social responsibility through the observance of this grant; and
- c). To encourage students, particularly the poor and underprivileged, to pursue quality education to secure their future and make them responsible citizens.

SEC. 3. Definitions. As used in this Act, the term "student" shall refer to any Filipino citizen, not more than thirty (30) years of age, and currently enrolled either in elementary, secondary or collegiate institutions, including vocational and technical school. Specifically excluded are schools of culinary arts and short-term courses of seminar type.

The term "transport utilities" shall refer to both public and private firms/companies duly authorized to engage in the conveyance of passengers, either by land, water or air for a fixed rate of fees.

SEC. 4. Privilege of Students. – The bonafide students under this Act shall be entitled to a grant of twenty percent (20%) discount on regular fares upon presentation of their duly issued school Identification Cards (IDs) or current validated enrollment forms supported by other document/s to properly establish identity. Said fare discount shall be available during the entire school year for elementary and secondary students, during the semester for college students, and during the duration of a course for vocational students, including Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays, and Christmas vacations.

SEC. 5. Coverage. This Act shall cover all bonafide students, except those specifically excluded therefrom as defined in Section 2 hereof.

SEC. 6. Filing of Complaints and/or Violations and Penalties. Students who are refused to avail of the privilege under this Act may file their complaints with the Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) which shall direct the concerned board/authority/office, as herein identified, to wit.

a). For Land Transportation Utilities: Suspension of license for the erring driver, conductor or inspector for one (1) month for the 1st offense; two (2) months for the 2nd offense, three (3) months for the 3rd offense; and for subsequent violations, a three months suspension of license, plus a fine of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) for each violation of the erring party.

b). For Water and Air Transport Utilities: A fine shall be imposed against the erring firms/establishment or their authorized agents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) for the 1st offense; Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00) for the 2nd offense; Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00) for the 3rd offense; and Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00) for each subsequent violation.

c). For Rail Transport Utilities: All rail transport utilities are mandate to observe the aforesaid fare discount privilege and designate a student/senior citizen fare booth in their boarding stations. Violation thereof shall be sanctioned or fined as follows: One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) for the 1st offense; Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) for the 2nd offense; Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00) for

the 3rd offense; and Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) for each subsequent violation.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) shall direct the attached agencies or offices under his Department to prepare and formulate, within thirty (30) days upon approval of this Act, the implementing Rules of this Act.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. All provisions of laws, decrees, orders, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and in effect.

SEC. 11. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,