

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 1505

Introduced by Congresswoman BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presently, the grant of student fare discounts is only through a memorandum circular of the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB). This bill aims to put the thrust of the circular forward by institutionalizing the grant of a fare discount privilege to *bonafide* students on land, water and air transport utilities, not only during school days but also during Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas vacations and other holidays during a school year or school semester, whichever is applicable.

The proposed grant is envisioned to lessen the impact of the current economic difficulties and assist parents and students in shouldering the transportation expenses relative to the rising cost of education in our country. Majority of its intended beneficiaries belong to the indigent, depressed and under privileged sector. Hence, they need and deserve the assistance of the government.

Under the proposed measure, the fare discount privilege is available to students even during Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas vacation and other holidays to enable and encourage them to undertake researches and group studies. It is in recognition of the fact that during such days and periods students are returning to their respective communities to assist their parents and at the same time to get their allowances for the succeeding school week. Moreover, there are certain students, like medical interns and those undergoing military trainings and specialized studies, who are required to report during such days and periods.

Approval therefore is earnestly sought.


BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO
Representative
Lone District, Aurora Province

H. B. No. 1505

Introduced by Congresswoman BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO

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 House of Representatives of the Philippines 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 of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private 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 fare 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 schools. 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 or technical 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) The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for land transportation utilities;
- b) The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) for sea/water transportation utilities;
- c) The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) for air transportation utilities;
- d) The Legal Service, DOTC, for rail transportation facilities, including the Light Railway Transit (LRT) and the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) projects.

SEC. 7. *Penalties.* After due investigation and findings the complaint to be true and valid, the following penalties shall be imposed as herein specified:

- 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-month suspension of license, plus a fine of Five Hundred Pesos (P500) 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 One Thousand Pesos (P1,000) for the 1st offense; Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000) for the 2nd offense; Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000) for the 3rd offense; and Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000) 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 indicated in the paragraph immediately preceding (item b, above).

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 take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,