

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3371



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to require establishments, such as malls and shopping centers, commercial areas, airport and bus terminals, hotels and the likes with designated taxi stands, to issue passenger stubs in order to provide the necessary information regarding the vehicle that they will hire.

The stub to be issued and accomplished by a security officer or a similarly designated individual shall contain the date and time, name of the taxi company and/or name of the taxi operator, body number of the vehicle, plate number, a contact number to be notified in case of emergency or complaints such as 117 (PNP), (LTO) and the establishment where the taxi stand is located.

Taxi is considered as the primary means of public transportation in reaching a destination promptly and safely. This service is conveniently made accessible to passengers as taxi stands are located in almost every commercial establishment in the Metro Manila and highly urbanized areas all over the country. Thus, establishments with designated taxi stands are one of the many agencies that should take part in ensuring public safety.

Recently, a new modus victimizing female riders by taxi drivers using a sleep inducing spray has been reported. Chairman Winston Ginez of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board said they have received several reports from the National Capital Region Police Office that a number of taxi drivers are preying on female passengers by using 'special spray' that emits toxins that make victims dizzy and numb to rob or molest them.

In one report, a complainant narrated her ordeal while inside a taxi cab that almost knocked her unconscious due to the strong smell of gaseous odor sprayed by the taxi driver while on her way to her destination.

Similar stories were also posted in social networking site Facebook by other victims of taxi drivers who used a variation of drugging their passengers by placing a 'wet towel soaked in an unknown chemical solution' directly to the cab's aircon device to emit gaseous odor.

In order to minimize if not totally eradicate such incidents and other crimes such as hold up, theft and overcharging passengers, preventive measures in which taxi riders will have the opportunity to communicate with taxi companies, operators and proper authorities and be able to report complains may be taken and this Act is one means of making it possible.

The bill also requires all taxi stands to install closed circuit television cameras to provide deterrents which would make would be criminals think twice and reconsider and help solve crimes.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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AN ACT
PROVIDING SAFETY FOR TAXI PASSENGERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of State Policy.* - The State shall, in the interest of providing passenger safety to the general public, require all taxi stands located in malls and shopping centers, commercial areas, airport and bus terminals, hotels, restaurants and similar establishments, the mandatory issuance of stubs to taxi passengers.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* - For the purpose of this Act, the following shall be the terminologies shall be construed as:

a. “Taxi” refers to a vehicle-for-hire type of public transport, usually a car installed with a taximeter, which transports a passenger between short distances.

a. “Taxi Stand” refers to an area, usually marked by a painted sign or a stand that is designated for passengers who intend to hail a taxi and works on a first-come-first-served basis.

SEC. 3. *Passenger Stub Specification.* - For purposes of this Act, the document to be provided by the establishment where the taxi stand is located, shall contain the following imperative details:

- (a) date and time;
- (b) name of the taxi company and/or name of the taxi operator;
- (c) body number of the vehicle;
- (d) plate number;
- (e) contact number to be notified in case of emergency or complaints such as 117 (PNP) and 921-448-7777 (LTO); and
- (f) location of the taxi stand

The stub, to be issued and accomplished by the security officer or any individual assigned to supervise the taxi stands, will be given to the passenger right before boarding the vehicle.

SEC. 4. *Installation of Surveillance and/or Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras in Taxi Stands.* - All taxi stands located in malls and shopping centers, commercial areas, airport and bus terminals, hotels, restaurants and similar establishment are required to install and maintain in good condition surveillance and/or closed circuit television cameras to protect taxi passengers and deter crimes.

These establishments are required to ensure that these surveillance/CCTV cameras are turned on and recording during the entirety of their business hours. They are also required to keep a deposit of video recordings for a period of not less than sixty (60) days from the date of recording.

SEC. 5. *Compliance and Monitoring Agencies.* – Local Government Units (LGUs) shall regularly conduct regular inspections in all the establishments with designated taxi stands under their territorial jurisdictions through duly designated persons and with the assistance of the Department of Trade and Industry.

SEC. 6. *Penalties.* – The following penalties shall apply to the owner, president, manager, or the most senior officers of any establishment of business entity who violates the provision of Section 3 of this Act:

a. On the first offense, a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) shall be imposed.

b. On the second offense, a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php150,000.00) shall be imposed.

c. On the third offense, in addition to a fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php300,000.00), the business permits and licenses to operate shall be cancelled or revoked.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,