

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

H.B. NO 4986



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Introduced by **HON. AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to penalize certain wrongful acts in the use of sidewalks and public roads which are meant for the use and enjoyment of the general public for the purpose for which they were built.

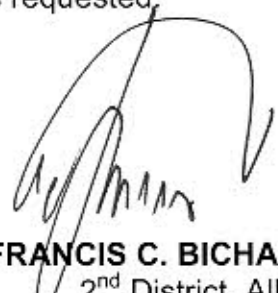
It is of no secret that urban areas have become so congested that people tend to disregard order and do some things convenient to them which on a bigger scale contribute to disorder and chaos.

Small businesses have used and occupied our sidewalks leaving pedestrians with no choice but to walk by the roadside, thus exposing them to greater risks of bodily injury and even death.

Residents who do not have parking spaces in their houses use the streets for their parking lots. Business establishments which do not have ample parking spaces use the roads as parking lots for their own vehicles as well as their clients', thereby clogging the already narrow roads and impeding the free flow of traffic. Adding to the already chaotic situation is the proliferation of public utility terminals. Our roads are not built for such purposes and the taxpayers have all the right to complain.

It is a fact that traffic congestion in urban areas result to economic losses amounting to billions of pesos yearly. Should these road obstructions be cleared, traffic flow will ease and a more robust economy will result.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is requested.

  
**AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay

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**AN ACT PENALIZING THE WRONGFUL USE OF SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC ROADS  
IN ALL URBAN AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

- Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "Sidewalk and Road Use Act".
- Section 2. Definition of terms.  
"Public road" means all roads built using taxpayers' money and built for vehicular traffic.  
"Sidewalk" means all sidewalks built using taxpayers' money, adjacent to public roads and built for pedestrian traffic.  
"Proper authority" means the Local Government Unit or the MMDA.
- Section 3. Without permit from the proper authorities, it shall be unlawful to use public roads for parking, business, public utility terminals and any other activity that tend to impede the free flow of traffic. Only temporary activities may be issued permits for the use of public roads. In no case shall public roads be designated by the local government units or any government agency as parking spaces and/or terminals for public utility vehicles, whether for free or for a fee.
- Section 4. It shall likewise be unlawful for anyone to build any edifice, stall and other similar structures, put up any business and other forms of obstruction, leave garbage and other junk materials, engage in ambulant vending, and other acts that tend to impede or obstruct the use of sidewalks which are meant to service pedestrians. Special permits may be issued by the proper authorities for the temporary use of sidewalks for entertainment and leisure. In no case shall permits be issued allowing the use of sidewalks to conduct business such as but not limited to vulcanizing shops, repair shops, parking spaces, eateries, advertisement spaces, and other similar activities.
- Section 5. The penalties for violations of the provisions of this Act shall be a fine ranging from Five-Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), confiscation of the obstructions and the impounding of vehicles by the proper authority.
- Section 6. This Act shall take effect Fifteen days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of General Circulation.

*Approved.*