

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5313



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rapid mass transport systems such as the Light Rail Transit (LRT Lines) as well as Metro Rail Transit (MRT Line/s) have truly met the highest demands and objectives to provide mass transport systems at fairly reasonable fare rates the comparative quality of their management, operation, and maintenance cannot be underestimated.

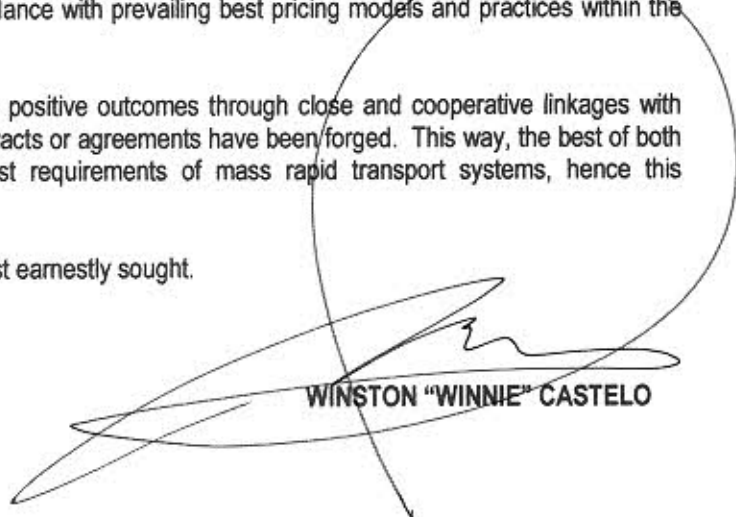
However, increasing number of users may have taken its toll on maintenance or operation costs relative to the user's fees collected from passengers/commuters/users thus perhaps, exerting pressure on contractors to call for fare rate adjustments in order to maintain the quality of service and operation of these lines.

There is now a need therefore for a government agency to oversee the administration and operation of these rail transit systems, both public or private, in Metro Manila and other areas specifically in regard to the collection of fares and prescribing the reasonable fare rates on the use of these facilities/public utilities.

Thus, under this proposed measure, there shall hereby be created the Metro Rail Transit Regulatory Authority to streamline, oversee, and more aggressively manage and operate these valuable government projects called the LRTs and MRTs to effectively and efficiently provide mass transport systems at an all-time reasonable and affordable costs. Pricing policies shall be in accordance with prevailing best pricing models and practices within the competence of the authority to formulate.

The new Authority is expected to provide positive outcomes through close and cooperative linkages with private sectors with whom certain government contracts or agreements have been forged. This way, the best of both worlds could be achieved in meeting the highest requirements of mass rapid transport systems, hence this submission.

Immediate passage of this measure is most earnestly sought.



WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
CREATING THE RAIL REGULATORY BOARD ("RRB") TO SUPERVISE, OVERSEE AND REGULATE THE RAIL TRANSIT
SYSTEM OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Title - This Act shall be known as the 'Rail Regulatory Board Act of 2015'.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. Related thereto, it is the policy of the state to assist the people in their transportation and communication by providing efficient, affordable and comfortable means of travel.

Section 3. Creation of Rail Regulatory Board - There is hereby created a Rail Regulatory Board ("RRB") to supervise, oversee and regulate rail transport in the country, with the sole and exclusive power to set and approve fares and other costs for riding in trains, trams, metros and other means of transportation that utilize rails and tracks.

Section 4 - Composition of the Rail Regulatory Board - The RRB shall be composed of seven (7) members, with the Secretary of Transportation and Communication as Chairman, and the Secretaries of Finance, Budget and Management, Public Works and Highways, a member of the Senate, and two (2) members of the House of Representatives as ex officio members. The board members shall be entitled to such budget, allocations and per diem, as may be set and included in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Secretary of Transportation and Communication shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulation to implement and carry out the intent, objectives, purposes and provisions of this Act

Section 6. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.