

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5165



Introduced by BAYAN MUNA Representative CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE

**AN ACT ON THE PROVISION OF
AUDIBLE TRAFFIC SIGNALS (ATS) AS A MEANS OF ALERTING THE BLIND AND
VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEDESTRIANS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislation seeks to promote empowerment for the blind and elder persons by making them less dependent on other pedestrians when crossing the street.

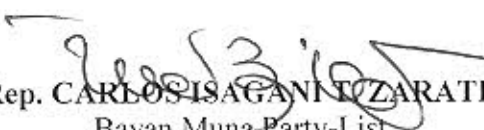
As visually impaired pedestrians cannot or find it hard to see the traffic lights, their safety is compromised as they are vulnerable to accident while crossing the street.

This bill proposes that all pedestrian crossings shall have Audible Traffic Signal (ATS) which emits a particular sound when the traffic light is red, yellow or green. With this, the visually impaired pedestrians can confidently rely on their sense of hearing and will know when to cross the streets. This bill will protect the visually impaired persons as their special needs should be recognized as rights not favors.

The bill was originally filed by Bayan Muna during the 15th Congress.

We urge our colleagues support the speedy approval of the bill.

Approved,


Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-List

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

Section 1.*Short Title.* – The Act shall be known as the “*Audible Traffic Signal Act of 2012.*”

Section 2.*Scope of Act.* - The provisions of this Act shall control, as far as they apply, the registration and operation of motor vehicles and the licensing of owners, dealers, conductors, drivers, and similar matters.

Section 3.*Purpose.* – This Act has the following purposes:

- a) To provide safety for the differently abled pedestrians specially the blind and elderly;
- b) To improve the motorists and public safety;
- c) To improve the traffic flow and congestion;

Section 4.*Audible Traffic Signal.* - Audible Traffic Signal provides information about the status and relative position of pedestrian light signals for blind or visually impaired pedestrians.

An audible traffic signal includes two speakers at the ends of a crosswalk and a control section. The control section navigates a person crossing by simultaneously emit sounds as in "back and forth call" operation from the two speakers disposed at the two ends of the crosswalk for a period during which crossing is permitted.

Section 5.*Implementation.*— There shall be Audible Traffic Signal in all pedestrian crossings with traffic signals that regulate vehicular traffic, which will emit a particular sound when the traffic light is red, yellow or green.

Section 6.*Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — This act including its implementing rules and regulations shall be implemented by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and other concerned agencies.

Section 7.*Budgetary Appropriation.*— Such amount as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act shall be provided for by Congress in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 8.*Effectivity.*— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of national circulation.

Approved.