

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS

First Regular Session

5397
House Bill No. _____

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has long been known for its people's proficiency in speaking the English language. In Southeast Asia alone, we are considered the best English-speaking nation amongst all other countries.

Slowly but surely too, our ability to speak English fluently is being more and more recognized and reinforced worldwide. In a recent study conducted by the GlobalEnglish Corporation, the Philippines was named the world's best country in business English proficiency, even beating the United States for that matter.

As per Global English's annual Business English Index (BEI) for the year 2012, only the Philippines attained a score above 7.0

among the 76 represented countries around the world. Such rating translates to "high proficiency" which is indicative of the Filipinos' ability to take an active role in business discussions and perform relatively complex tasks.¹

It can be deduced from the foregoing that our English proficiency bridges different cultures and nations and ultimately contributes to our very own economic growth. Because we have the ability to speak the language which is widely used around the world, language barriers never get in the way of tourism, trade, business and profession involving parties of different nationalities. This gives us a competitive leverage in the global market against other nations in more ways than one.

First, there is no wonder why there is an outpour of Overseas Filipino Workers – relating and communicating with employers have always been easier with a Filipino worker, as compared to other nationalities. Indeed, aside from other great characteristics of Filipinos when it comes to their jobs, their ability to understand and speak English has always been a primary consideration for hiring them.

Second, our high competency in speaking the English language enables our business-oriented countrymen to expand their horizons internationally. Communication is very easy and dealing with foreign clients, partners and whatnot, prospective or otherwise, is no problem for us at all.

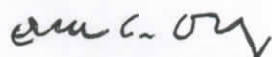
As the Business Processing Operation (BPO) Industry gains trend, Filipinos become highly in demand as well mainly because of our high English proficiency. In fact, as a country with one-tenth of the population of India, the Philippines recently overtook the latter as a hub for call centers. Over 400,000 Filipinos are now employed in call centers, roughly 50,000 more than those in India.²

Truly, the impact of having above-average proficiency in English is too substantial to ignore. It follows then that our skill in speaking the English Language must not only be maintained, but also improved so as not to lose our competitive advantage against other countries especially now that almost every aspect of business and economy is geared towards globalization.

While recognizing the greater importance of knowing and loving our very own language – that being Filipino – we cannot, however, afford to be below the benchmark of what the global market requires as can be gleaned from the steady decline in the Filipinos' ability to speak the language in recent years. Speaking the English language fluently seems a must nowadays, and the Philippines, having established a good reputation with respect to this matter (as discussed above), cannot just forego the benefits created by this skill to our economy.

We shall therefore adapt a system that will enhance the English proficiency further in the country. Young minds must be trained to be fluent in the language being used worldwide as this will serve as their stepping stone in a guaranteed good career in the future.

It is for this reason that the approval of this bill is being sought.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5397**

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE USE OF THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN GRADE
SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION**

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the
“English Proficiency Act of 2014”.

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* The terms, as used in this
Act shall mean as follows:

Grade School – grade school shall pertain to the elementary level of education which adopts or follows the Kto12 system.

High School – pertains to the regular 4 year intermediate level of education.

College – pertains to the four or more years of tertiary education, depending on the course or degree pursued. For purposes of this Act, College education shall exclude vocational courses.

Vocational Education – pertains to informal education that prepares people for specific trades, crafts, and skills.

Student – as used in this Act, students shall pertain to anyone in grade school, high school and/or college level, as the case may be.

Learners; Apprentices– for purposes of this Act and this Act alone, the terms Learners and Apprentices shall be used interchangeably depending on the circumstances, so long as both refer to people enrolled in a vocational course.

SECTION 3. *Mandatory English Aptitude Test.* Every start or school year, and of every semester, a mandatory aptitude test measuring the general English Proficiency of students shall be conducted. Based on the results of which, the lesson plan of teachers assigned to handle English courses such as Grammar, Reading Comprehension, Literature, Technical Writing, Research and the like shall adjust their lesson plans and tailor fit the same to address the key weaknesses of students in different Areas of English courses.

SECTION 4. *Mandatory English Post-Diagnostic Test.* At the end of every school year, or of every semester as the case may be, a mandatory test covering the same topics as that of the previously given Aptitude Test, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, shall be conducted to measure the improvement of the students in English over the year or the semester.

SECTION 5. *Preparation of Mandatory Aptitude and Post-Diagnostic Tests.* The tests as mentioned in Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall be prepared by the Department of Education (DepEd) for the grade school and high school level, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the college level and TESDA for the vocational education.

SECTION 6. *Report of the Results of the Mandatory and Post-Diagnostic Tests.* It shall be the duty of each school, college, university or any other educational institution including those that cater to vocational education to submit a summarized report of the results of the Mandatory and Post-Diagnostic tests to the respective departments which they are under.

SECTION 7. *Evaluation by DepEd, CHED and/or TESDA.* These agencies shall have the duty to evaluate and analyze the reports submitted to them by the schools and/or universities under them and identify the core weaknesses of the students, or the learners/apprentices as the case may be. Based on these data, these agencies shall update, improve and/or revise their prescribed curriculum to address these general weaknesses.

SECTION 8. *English Language as Medium of Instruction.* In all levels of education, the English language shall be the standard medium of instruction in conducting classes, in oral and written examinations, home works, projects and the like in all the subjects except in Filipino subject and Philippine History.

SECTION 9. *Acceptable Use of Other Languages or Dialects.* To ensure that students have a better understanding of the English Language, a teacher should exert extra effort to explain

key concepts of the lesson to a struggling student in Filipino, or in any other language or dialect that will be easily understood by the latter. After doing so, the teacher may proceed to conduct the class using the English Language as medium of instruction again.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

SECTION 10. *Mandatory English Lessons for Vocational Courses.* Every vocational course offered in the country shall incorporate basic English lessons for the learners and apprentices. The English component shall cover at least 30% of the entire vocational course.

SECTION 11. *Joint Sessions to Complete the English Component.* Alternatively, at the option of the institution offering different vocational courses, public or private, the English component as required in Section 10 of this Act may be conducted in a joint session for all enrollees in the said institution.

TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTORS

SECTION 12. *Seminars Required.* Teachers and Instructors of any English-related course or subject shall undergo regular trainings and seminars to improve their skills and knowledge of the subject they teach. Also, the seminars shall also cover ways to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of imparting knowledge to their students and to educate said educators themselves of the trends and novel concepts being developed world wide with respect to their specific fields they teach including but not limited to Grammar, Reading Comprehension, Technical Writing, Research and Business/ Professional English and other branches of the subject.

SECTION 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Education (DepEd) for grade school and high school, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for college, and TESDA the vocational education, shall respectively promulgate their own Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act taking into consideration the peculiarities and specific needs of each educational level under their supervision. Such rules and regulations shall separately take effect upon their publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.* – In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 16. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5398**



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fundamental in our Constitution is the State's policy of providing quality education among Filipino youth. Thus, Article XIV Section 1 and 2.1, provide:

Section 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Section 2. The State shall:

Establish, maintain, and support a complete adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society;

Currently, both the labor sector and the educational sector are suffering from interruptions in the productive hours brought about by torrential rains and the consequent floodings during the rainy season due to climate change. These interruptions not only substantially lessen the school days and hours spent by children within the academic year, they likewise adversely affect the productivity of our workforce due to difficulty in going to and from work. Hence, it is essential that the state take preventive measures in this decline in productivity by adjusting the Philippine Standard Time (PST) by one hour during the dry season. The accumulated extra hours of classes and work hours shall then be accumulated to compensate for the interruptions during the rainy season.

By the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly prayed for.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5398**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**AN ACT ALLOWING THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE THE ADOPTION OF
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (DST) IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Short Title.- This Act shall be known as the "Daylight Saving Time Act of 2013".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy.- The State recognizes the vital role of the Filipino youth in nation building. Moreover, it is the policy of the state to establish, maintain, and support a complete adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society. Furthermore, the state recognizes its commitment to expand productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged. Lastly, the State recognizes the effects of global warming and climate change on the weather systems of the Philippines and the higher frequency of storms and tropical depressions that beset the country and the consequent flooding due to torrential rains during the rainy season which substantially interrupt the students' schooling as well as the workers' productive hours.

Section 3. Adoption of the Daylight Saving Time.- Beginning January 1 of each calendar year the President is allowed to adjust the Philippine Standard Time (PST) by one (1) hour at exactly 12:00 midnight, until June 1 of the same time and year in order to take advantage of the clear sunny weather during Philippine's dry season. The extra hours of school time or work time shall be devoted to off-set the interruptions in school days or work hours suffered by students and workers during the rainy season, thus obviating the decreased productivity of our educational institutions as well as the workforce.

Section 4. Appropriations.- The sums necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriate and shall be included in the Annual General Appropriation Act.

Section 5. Implementing Rules.- The Secretary of Science and Technology shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry into effect the purpose of this Act.

Section 6. Effectivity.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5399



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our world is rapidly transforming itself into a more modernized society. Alongside this technological advancement, people now tend to favor transactions that prove to be easier and more efficiently conducted. Particularly, conducting business nowadays especially those involving the outflow of earnings, is benefiting from the modernization we are undergoing. Gone are the days where people have to have cash ready and available whenever they need to pay for something. Oftentimes, the very important needs of an individual such as hospital bills, medicines, tuition, and other emergency expenses are not being met by any service or goods provider because of the former's lack of cash.

In this day and age, carrying money in our pockets have more often been regarded as disadvantageous, if not totally unnecessary. With the birth of credit cards and/or debit cards,

there is now a safer way of paying almost anything we need. Such mode of payment has slowly but surely been considered as a normal and acceptable mode of payment. From its flimsy origins dating back from 1920s, we have witnessed how the credit card market boomed and thrived over the years.

Indeed, credit cards have revolutionized the financial habits and ways of people and have made a significant change in the world of business as well as in every country's economy.

There are some basic advantages offered by the use of credit cards or debit cards as alternative for money. For one, credit or debit cards cannot be stolen or robbed. Secondly, it is easily replaceable. Also, the system of credit card payment provides for a great method for tracking one's expenses for budgeting's sake.

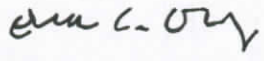
Furthermore, banks are required to exercise greater caution and diligence in their transactions considering that the nature of their business is imbued with public interest. Hence, banks provide the cardholder a certain degree of safeguard and protection on their purchases and possibly even reward points or cashback when they use their card.

In most countries nowadays, the use of credit cards is now the mainstream, and this is apparently justified by the benefits enumerated about. It is about time that we abandon the outdated method of one very important transaction every citizen in our own country makes, or is bound to make- the payment of taxes.

Through this bill, the use of credit cards or debit cards will become an acceptable way to pay taxes particularly imposed by the local government units. Using credit cards or debit cards provides a convenient way to pay one's taxes due. On the other hand, the State will also benefit from the fact that it may now collect from banks issuing such cards which have sufficient funds and a better capacity of paying.

In a way, allowing the use of credit cards or debit cards for the payment of taxes will also encourage more individuals to pay

their tax obligations properly. Evasion thereof will be avoided if people know that they do have an alternative to doling out cold cash, that is – delayed and staggered payment secured by and made possible through the credit card system. In such a scenario, the State will have no problem collecting from every taxable individual what is due of them as it can directly collect from his or her issuing bank or financial institution.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5399

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

**AN ACT ALLOWING THE USE OF CREDIT CARDS OR DEBIT
CARDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES AND
OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED TAXES, CHARGES
AND FEES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the
Credit or Debit Card Payment for LGU Taxes of 2014.

**Section 2. Credit or Debit Cards as Commercially
Acceptable Means of Payment of Taxes.** The use of credit
cards or debit cards shall now be considered commercially
acceptable means of paying real property taxes and any kind of
taxes imposed upon a person by the State through the local
government units to the extent and under the conditions
provided in the implementing rules and regulations prescribed by
the respective local government unit involved.

Section 3. Limitation. The taxpayer may not use or utilize
the credit cards or debit cards issued under the name of a person

other than himself or herself, for the payment of his or her own taxes due.

Section 4. Authorization by the Bureau. The local government unit may authorize select companies to process credit and debit cards on its behalf, and these companies may charge taxpayers a reasonably and regulated amount of processing fee.

Section 5. Confidentiality. No person may use or disclose any information relating to credit or debit card transactions obtained pursuant to this Act other than for purposes directly related to the processing of such tax related transactions, or the billing or collection of amounts charged or debited pursuant thereto.

Section 6. Exceptions to the Confidentiality Rule. Section 3 of this Act may admit of certain exceptions, to wit:

(A) Debit or credit card issuers or others acting on behalf of such issuers may also use and disclose such information for purposes directly related to servicing an issuer's accounts.

(B) Debit or credit card issuers or others directly involved in the processing of credit or debit card transactions or the billing or collection of amounts charged or debited thereto may also use and disclose such information for purposes directly related to—

- (1) statistical risk and profitability assessment;
- (2) transferring receivables, accounts, or interest therein;
- (3) auditing the account information; and
- (4) complying with the laws of the Philippines or any valid court order pursuant to a criminal investigation.

Provided, that the use and disclosure of information under this paragraph shall be made only to the extent authorized by written procedures, rules and regulations promulgated by the local government unit involved.

Section 7. Ultimate Solidary Liability of Tax Payer and Issuing Bank. When for any reason the use of credit cards or debit cards in the payment of the real property and other local government-imposed taxes proved to (1) have been done fraudulently or in contravention or circumvention of any law especially to evade tax obligations, the taxpayer shall be solidarily liable with the bank which issued the credit card for the actual and complete payment of taxes due, without prejudice to the filing by the local government unit of civil, criminal and/or administrative charges against any person or persons conniving for the purpose of evading taxes due. On this note, an individual's bankruptcy would not discharge credit card debt incurred from taxes.

Section 8. Liability of Guaranteeing Banks. If the credit card and/or debit card which has been guaranteed expressly by a bank or any financial institution, is not duly paid, the State shall, in addition to its right to exact payment from the party originally indebted therefor, have a lien for the guaranteed amount of the transaction upon all the assets of the institution making such guarantee, and such amount shall be paid out of such assets in preference to any other claims whatsoever against such guaranteeing financial institution.

Section 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Finance and the Department of Interior and Local Government in coordination with the local government units shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon their publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Section 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

Section 11. *Separability Clause.* – In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5400



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to prohibit lane splitting.

It is the policy of the State to protect the welfare and safety of the commuting public and all road users. The State ensures that the safety of all road users, particularly the motorcyclists, are fully integrated into the operation of the country's transportation system.

Department of Transportation Administrative Order No. AHS-2008-015, defines lane splitting as using or sharing a lane already occupied by one vehicle by another vehicle such as a motorcycle or scooter in a road or highway.

As posted online in "*Splitting Lanes*" by Speed Spec, dated May 3, 2014, lane splitting is considered generally legal in most countries. Lane splitting is largely ignored or tolerated in most parts of the world, including ours. Here in the Philippines, motorcycles are certainly in far greater numbers than in the United States or United Kingdom. It is a popular choice for people who do not want to commute but shy away from the cost of buying a car.

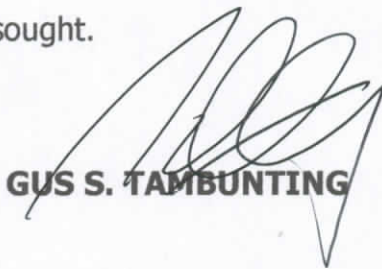
Advocates of lane splitting say that it helps reduce congestion by giving motorcyclists the choice to exclude themselves from the crawl. This sounds like common sense, as this means that motorcyclists can keep on going, instead of having to queue up along with the other vehicles on the road. Advocates also say that splitting lanes keeps our roads safer, keeping motorcyclists from being rear-ended in traffic.

Section 40 of Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the "Land Transportation and Traffic Code," gives lane splitting implied legality:

"SECTION 40. Driver to give way to overtaking vehicle. - The driver of a vehicle about to be overtaken and passed by another vehicle approaching from the rear shall give way to the overtaking vehicle on suitable and audible signal being by the driver of the overtaking vehicle, and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle."

By prohibiting lane splitting, our people will have safe, convenient and serviceable public streets which they rightly deserved. It is therefore necessary to prohibit lane splitting for the well-being of travellers and the motorcyclists.

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


GUS S. TAMBUNTING

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5400

Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
PROHIBITING LANE SPLITTING BY ANY MOTOR BIKE RIDER AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Prohibited Acts, Fines and Penalties.* – Notwithstanding Sections 39 and 40 of Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the “*Land Transportation and Traffic Code*,” any motor bike rider who lane splits at a speed exceeding forty (40) kilometers per hour shall be imposed the following fines and penalties without prejudice to any criminal action that may be filed against the motor bike rider under existing laws as a result of lane splitting:

- a) Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) for the first (1st) offense;
- b) Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) for the second (2nd) offense and thirty-day suspension of license; and
- c) Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00) for the third (3rd) offense and revocation of license.

SECTION 2. For purposes of this Act, *lane splitting* means:

- a. Riding a motorcycle between lanes or rows of slow moving or stopped traffic moving in the same direction; or
- b. Cycling between two lanes of cars while still staying within the confines of one lane, effectively travelling in road space that would otherwise go unused.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provision of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,