

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6195

Introduced by Hon. HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public service requires empathy and concerns for the people being served.

Public service improves when it is rendered with empathy and compassion.

Public service requires living modestly and does not mean entitlement to perks such as business class and first class accommodations with airlines.

Aside from their use of official government vehicles according to established rules and regulations, public servants should maintain their empathy with and compassion for the people by riding public transportation on occasion.

This bill requires elected and appointed public officials and civil servants in national and local government offices with the rank (or equivalent) of division chief to department secretary to ride public land transport to and from work and for official business, at least once every calendar month during weekday rush hours using each of the various modes that are operating in the geographical area the reside and work in: passenger buses, commuter trains, light rail, taxis and transport network vehicle service, public utility jeepneys, and passenger tricycles.

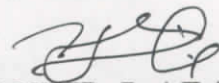
The bill also set economy class as the mode of all air travel of all elected and appointed public officials and civil servants in national and local government offices regardless of rank.

The only exceptions to the limitations on land, air, and sea travel provided are:

Actual existing physical handicap or serious medical condition that significantly limits physical movement and mobility as certified by a licensed practicing medical specialist; and

Security threats and concerns involving the President, Vice President, the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court. However, these particular constitutional officials may voluntarily set aside the exception but they may be accompanied by a personal security team whose number, members, and security measures shall be determined by the Presidential Security Group and by the Philippine National Police office responsible for security details of very important personalities (VIPs).

The personal, first-hand experience of riding public transportation will enable legislators to gain real world perspectives and inputs in aid of legislation.



HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON III
AANGAT TAYO Party-list

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AN ACT
REQUIRING PUBLIC SERVANTS TO COMMUTE VIA PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Public Servants' Commuting via Public Transport Act".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. Get an excerpt from the law on conduct of public officials.

Section 3. Scope. All elected and appointed public officials and civil servants in national and local government offices with the rank (or equivalent) of division chief to department secretary shall ride public land transport to and from work and for official business, at least once every calendar month during weekday rush hours using each of the various modes that are operating in the geographical area the reside and work in: passenger buses, commuter trains, light rail, taxis and transport network vehicle service, public utility jeepneys, and passenger tricycles.

Air travel and sea travel. Economy class shall be the mode of all air travel of all elected and appointed public officials and civil servants in national and local government offices regardless of rank.

Section 4. Exceptions. The only exceptions to the limitations on land, air, and sea travel provided in this Act are:

Actual existing physical handicap or serious medical condition that significantly limits physical movement and mobility as certified by a licensed practicing medical specialist.

Security threats and Concerns involving the President, Vice President, the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court. However, these particular constitutional officials may voluntarily set aside the exception but they may be accompanied by a personal security team whose number, members, and security measures shall be determined by the Presidential Security Group and by the Philippine National Police office responsible for security details of very important personalities (VIPs).

Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Presidential Security Group shall jointly develop and promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

Section 6. Appropriations. Funds for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the budgets of the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Presidential Security Group as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 7. Separability. If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 8. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation with established internet website presence.

Approved.