

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6229



Introduced by Hon. HENRY C. ONG

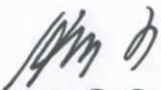
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public servants without empathy do not deserve to serve in the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). Public service improves when it is rendered with empathy and compassion. The degree of penalties is designed to promote compliance and discourage circumvention.

This bill seeks to make it the duty of every LTFRB public servant to ride public transport during rush hour, once a week during weekdays. First offense for non-compliance shall be punishable administratively by suspension for one (1) month without pay while second offense shall have the penalty of six (6) months without pay. Third offense shall be punishable by dismissal from the service.

Commission of dishonesty as regards compliance with this Act shall come with the penalty of six (6) months without pay for the first offense and second offense shall be punishable by dismissal from the service.

The personal, first-hand experience of riding public transportation will enable LTFRB officials and employees to gain better perspectives and in aid of rendering judgments and crafting policies.


Henry C. Ong
Representative,
2nd District of Leyte

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS
OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY
BOARD (LTFRB) TO COMMUTE VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORT AT LEAST ONCE A
WEEK
DURING WEEKDAY RUSH HOURS

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 "LTFRB Servants' Commuting via Public Transport Act".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the declared policy of the State, as enshrined in the Constitution, that public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.

Section 3. Scope. All employees and officials regardless of employment status, whether job order, contractual, permanent, appointed or career, working for the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board and its satellite offices in the regions, shall ride public land transport to and from work and/or for official businesses, at least once every week during weekday rush hours, defined in this act as the time range from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and using any of the various modes that are operating in the geographical area they reside and work in: passenger buses, commuter trains, light rail, taxis and transport network vehicle service, public utility jeepneys, and passenger tricycles.

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

- A) Actual existing physical handicap or serious medical condition that significantly limits physical movement and mobility as certified by a licensed practicing medical specialist, and
- B) Employees who are senior citizens.

Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Civil Service Commission, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Department of Transportation shall jointly develop and promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

Section 6. Penalties and Fines. Inasmuch as this Act now makes it the duty of every LTFRB public servant to ride public transport during rush hours once a week during weekdays as earlier specified, first offense for non-compliance shall therefore be punishable administratively by suspension for one (1) month without pay. Second offense shall have the penalty of six (6) months without pay. Third offense shall be punishable by dismissal from the service.

Commission of dishonesty as regards compliance with this Act shall come with the penalty of six (6) months without pay for the first offense. Second offense shall be punishable by dismissal from the service.

Section 7. Appropriations. Funds for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the budget of the Department of Transportation as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 8. 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 9. 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.