



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6978**



Introduced by Representative Rodolfo C. Fariñas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a National Transportation Safety Board.

The Philippines relies heavily on the transportation industry to provide business opportunities and to increase the mobility of people and goods. The transportation industry plays a vital role in the development and in promoting economic growth in the country. The maintenance of a safe, viable, efficient, fast and dependable transportation system is therefore imperative. However, through time, the country witnessed transportation accidents of different magnitudes. These unfortunate accidents, which have caused much damage to persons, property and the environment, reveal the immediate need for the State to find concrete and permanent solutions to minimize if not totally prevent these accidents.

Public clamor for government action arises whenever transportation accidents occur, particularly those causing the loss of lives and damage to property. The public expects the government to conduct immediate investigation and demands full disclosure and the corresponding safety recommendations. However, transportation accidents still occur from time to time, even those which could have been prevented by proactive measures from different sectors. Thus, there is a need to effectively promote a higher degree of safety in the transportation sector of the country.

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Currently, there are various government agencies tasked with the regulation of the transportation system which are attached to the Department of Transportation, namely: the Land Transportation Office, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, Maritime Industry Authority, and the Philippine Coast Guard. As regulatory agencies, they are mandated to promulgate transportation safety rules, regulations and policies. In order to have proper oversight over the safety, adequacy and efficiency of our transport system, an independent and non-regulatory agency is essential.

This measure proposes the establishment of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) as the primary investigative agency of transportation accidents which resulted in a fatality or significant damage to property or the environment. The main objective of NTSB is to determine the cause or causes of accidents involving the various modes of transportation --- land, air, maritime and rail ---, promote transportation safety, and to initiate or recommend measures aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and has the added responsibility of coordinating government assistance to victims and their families in cases of catastrophic transportation accidents which may cause the loss of lives or damage to property or the environment.

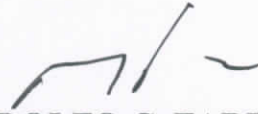
The NTSB is composed of a Chairperson and four full-time members who each have extensive training and experience in a specific mode of transportation and also have adequate knowledge in investigation, analysis and evaluation of transportation accidents, particularly in the field of accident reconstruction, evaluation of evidence and transportation safety.

The NTSB shall be charged with the conduct of independent accident investigations; continual and objective review, appraisal and assessment of operating practices and regulations of government agencies which implement transportation laws and policies. It is also tasked to formulate and promulgate safety improvement standards for observance and implementation by said agencies and the public.

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Establishing a National Transportation Safety Board will ensure that an impartial and thorough investigation of transportation accidents is conducted by an independent and non-regulatory agency.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Rodolfo C. Fariñas.

RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS



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1 **AN ACT**
2 **ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY**
3 **BOARD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

4
5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress of the*
6 *Philippines Assembled:*

7
8 **CHAPTER I**
9 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

10
11 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*National*
12 *Transportation Safety Board Act.*”

13 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of
14 the State to maintain a safe, viable, efficient and dependable transportation
15 system as it plays an important role in nation-building and in promoting
16 economic growth.

1 Consistent with this policy, the State recognizes the importance of
2 preventing transportation accidents, thereby saving lives and property, by
3 promoting transportation safety. Towards this end, there is a need to
4 establish a government agency tasked with promoting transportation safety
5 and efficiency in the transportation of people, property and goods and
6 conducting investigations to determine the probable cause of transportation
7 accidents.

8 CHAPTER II

9 CREATION AND ORGANIZATION

10
11 SEC. 3. *National Transportation Safety Board*. – There is hereby
12 created the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) which shall be
13 attached to the Office of the President.

14 The NTSB shall have the following objectives:

15 a) To prevent future transportation accidents, save lives and
16 reduce injuries and damage to property;

17 b) To ensure implementation of safety procedures that have been
18 identified by the government agencies responsible for transportation safety;

19 c) To conduct objective, precise accident investigations, and
20 safety studies;

21 d) To assist the victims of transportation accidents and their
22 families and ensure that they receive timely and commensurate assistance

1 from the transport operators, other government agencies, and community
2 service organizations; and

3 e) Advocate and promote safety recommendations and related
4 information to the public, safety managers, and to the transportation sector.

5 SEC. 4. **Board Members; Qualifications.** – (a) The NTSB shall be
6 composed of a Chairperson and four (4) full time members.

7 (b) A member of the NTSB must be:

8 (1) A natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines;

9 (2) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;

10 (3) A person of good moral character, unquestionable integrity,
11 recognized probity, and competence.

12 (c) The NTSB must be composed of experts in the following fields:

13 (1) One (1) member must have extensive training and experience of at
14 least ten (10) years in air transportation;

15 (2) Two (2) members must have extensive training and experience of
16 at least ten (10) years in maritime transportation;

17 (3) Two (2) members must have extensive training and experience of
18 at least ten (10) years in land transportation; and

19 (4) One (1) member must have extensive training and experience in
20 rail transportation.

21 (d) The members of the NTSB must also have adequate knowledge in
22 investigation, analysis and evaluation of transportation accidents,

1 particularly in the field of accident reconstruction, evaluation of evidence
2 and transportation safety.

3 SEC. 5. ***Chairperson.*** – The Chairperson of the NTSB shall be the
4 chief executive officer and shall exercise the executive and administrative
5 functions thereof with respect to the appointment and supervision of
6 personnel employed by the NTSB, distribution of functions among any
7 administrative units of the NTSB and the use and expenditure of funds.

8 The members of the NTSB will choose from among themselves an
9 acting Chairperson in the event of absence or incapacity of the Chairperson.

10 SEC. 6. ***Appointment of NTSB Members.*** – The President of the
11 Philippines shall appoint the first members of the NTSB within sixty (60)
12 days from the effectivity of this Act. Any vacancy in the NTSB shall also be
13 filled within sixty (60) days from the date the vacancy first arises.

14 SEC. 7. ***Term of Office.*** – All members of the NTSB shall have a
15 fixed term of six (6) years without reappointment. Of those first appointed,
16 the Chairperson shall hold office for six (6) years, two (2) members shall
17 hold office for four (4) years and the remaining two (2) members shall hold
18 office for two (2) years, without reappointment. Upon the expiration of the
19 term of a member of the NTSB, the said member shall continue to serve
20 until a successor is appointed and shall have qualified. Appointment to any
21 vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

1 No member of the NTSB shall hold concurrently any other
2 government office or position or be employed in any government-owned or
3 controlled corporation or entity.

4 Members of the NTSB may be removed by the President for cause as
5 provided for by law.

6 SEC. 8. *Prohibited Interests.* – The Chairperson and members of the
7 NTSB or any of their relatives within the fourth civil degree of
8 consanguinity or affinity, legitimate or common law, shall be prohibited
9 from holding any interest whatsoever, either as investor, stockholder, officer
10 or director, in any company or entity engaged in air, maritime, land and rail
11 transportation, whether scheduled or unscheduled, passenger or cargo,
12 domestic or international, or in any business providing support services to
13 persons engaged in areas such as general sales agencies, travel agencies,
14 cargo forwarders, ground handling, catering, fuel servicing, maintenance,
15 and must divest, through sale or legal disposition, of any and all interests in
16 such undertakings upon assumption of office. Any violation of this section
17 shall subject the member concerned to removal from the NTSB for cause as
18 well as administrative, civil or criminal prosecution under applicable laws.

19 SEC. 9. *Quorum.* – The presence of at least three (3) members of the
20 NTSB shall constitute a quorum and the majority vote of two (2) members
21 in a meeting where a quorum is present shall be necessary for the adoption

1 of any rule, ruling, order, resolution, decision or other act of the NTSB in the
2 exercise of its functions.

3 SEC. 10. **Compensation.** – The salary of the Chairperson and the
4 members of the NTSB shall be the same as those of the Chairperson and
5 Members of the different Constitutional Commissions. They shall also be
6 entitled to computable representation and transportation allowances in the
7 amount of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) each per month.
8 The salary of the Chairperson and Members of the NTSB shall not be
9 decreased during their tenure.

10 SEC. 11. **Offices of the NTSB.** – The NTSB shall establish and
11 maintain distinct and appropriately staffed bureaus, divisions or offices to
12 investigate and report on accidents in any of the following modes of
13 transportation: a) air; b) maritime; c) land; and d) railroad or tracked
14 vehicles.

15 The NTSB shall also establish and maintain any other office as is
16 needed, including an office to investigate and report on the safe
17 transportation of hazardous, toxic or waste materials.

18 SEC. 12. **Personnel.** – Subject to civil service laws, rules and
19 regulations and the approval of the Department of Budget and Management,
20 the NTSB is authorized to determine its own staffing pattern and the number
21 of personnel of the organization. The NTSB is also authorized, in
22 accordance with existing laws and policies, to select, appoint, employ, and

1 fix the compensation of such officers and employees, including
2 investigators, and attorneys, as shall be necessary to carry out its powers and
3 duties.

4 SEC. 13. *Seal.* – The NTSB shall have a seal which shall be officially
5 recognized.

6

7

CHAPTER III

8

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

9

10 SEC. 14. *Powers of the NTSB.* – The NTSB shall exercise the
11 following powers:

12 a) The NTSB, or upon authority of the NTSB, any member
13 thereof, or any officer or employee duly designated by the chairperson, may
14 conduct such hearings, sit and act as such times and places, administer such
15 oaths and require by *subpoena* or *subpoena duces tecum* the attendance and
16 testimony of such witnesses and the production of such evidence as the
17 NTSB or such officer may deem necessary. Subpoenas shall be issued
18 under the signature of the chairperson, and may be served by the person
19 designated by the chairperson.

20 b) Any employee of the NTSB, upon presenting appropriate
21 credentials and a written notice of inspection authority, is authorized to enter
22 any property wherein a transportation accident has occurred or wreckage of
23 any such accident is located and do all things therein necessary for the

1 proper conduct of investigation. The employees may inspect, at reasonable
2 times, records, files, processes, controls and facilities relevant to the
3 investigation of such accident. Each inspection shall commence and be
4 completed with reasonable promptness and the results of such inspection
5 made available to the public within a reasonable time;

6 c) In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena, an order, or
7 an inspection notice of the NTSB or any duly designated employee thereof,
8 by any person who resides, is found, or transacts business within the
9 jurisdiction of the Philippines, may be required to comply forthwith by a
10 court of competent jurisdiction, upon the petition of the NTSB. Failure to
11 obey such an order is punishable by such court as contempt of court;

12 d) The NTSB is authorized to enter into such contracts, leases,
13 cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary in the
14 conduct of the functions and the duties of the NTSB under this Section, with
15 any government entity or any person;

16 e) The NTSB is authorized to:

17 1) Use, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, when appropriate,
18 available services, equipment, personnel and facilities of the
19 Department of Transportation, the Department of National Defense, the
20 Department of Public Works and Highways, including their attached
21 agencies, and other agencies and instrumentalities of the government in
22 the conduct of its investigations;

1 2) Employ recognized experts and consultants on the accidents
2 under investigation who shall be paid by compensation fixed by the
3 NTSB: *Provided*, That not more than two consultants shall be
4 appointed for each incident being investigated;

5 3) Create advisory committees composed of qualified private
6 citizens and government officials as it deems necessary or appropriate;

7 4) Accept voluntary and uncompensated services notwithstanding
8 any other provision of law; and

9 5) Accept gifts or donations of money or property, including real,
10 personal, mixed, tangible or intangible; and enter into contracts with
11 public or private non-profit entities for the conduct of studies related to
12 any of its functions.

13 f) The NTSB may order any autopsy to be performed and have
14 other tests made when necessary to investigate an accident. However, local
15 or national laws protecting religious beliefs related to autopsies shall be
16 observed to the extent consistent with the needs of the accident
17 investigation. With or without reimbursement, the NTSB may obtain a copy
18 of an autopsy report performed by a State or local official on an individual
19 who died because of a transportation accident investigated by the NTSB;

20 g) As soon as practicable after being notified of a transportation
21 accident within the Philippines involving a domestic or foreign air carrier,
22 domestic or foreign passenger or cargo ship, land based mass transit system

1 which results in the loss of lives or significant damage to property or to the
2 environment, the NTSB shall:

3 1) Designate and publicize the name and phone number of the
4 Director of the Office for Public Affairs or Support Services, which
5 shall be created pursuant to this Act, who shall be an employee of the
6 NTSB and shall be responsible for acting as a point of contact within
7 the Government for the families of passengers involved in the accident
8 and a liaison between the carrier and the families;

9 2) Designate the Department of Social Welfare and Development
10 (DSWD) or an independent non-governmental organization (NGO),
11 with experience in disasters and post-trauma communication with
12 families, which shall have primary responsibility for coordinating the
13 emotional care and support of the families of passengers involved in the
14 accident;

15 3) Meet with the families who have traveled to the location of the
16 accident, to contact the families unable to travel to such location, and to
17 contact all affected families periodically thereafter until such time as
18 the NTSB, in consultation with the DSWD, determines that further
19 assistance is no longer needed;

20 4) Communicate with the families as to the roles of the NTSB,
21 government agencies, and the carrier involved with respect to the
22 accident and the post-accident activities; and

1 5) Request, as soon as practicable, from the carrier involved in the
2 accident a list, which is based on the best available information at the
3 time of the request, of the names of the passengers that were aboard the
4 transport involved in the accident.

5 h) To the extent practicable, the NTSB shall coordinate its
6 activities with the carrier involved in the accident so that the resources of the
7 carrier can be used to the greatest extent possible to carry out the Board's
8 responsibilities;

9 i) Whenever the NTSB submits or transmits any budget estimates,
10 budget request, supplemental budget estimate, or other budget information,
11 legislative recommendation, prepared testimony for Congressional hearings,
12 or comment on legislation to the President or the Department of Budget and
13 Management, it shall concurrently transmit a copy thereof to the Congress.
14 No officer or agency of the government shall have any authority to require
15 the NTSB to submit its budget requests or estimates, legislative
16 recommendations, prepared testimony for congressional hearings, or
17 comments on legislation to any officer or agency of the National
18 Government for approval, comments, or review, prior to the submission of
19 such recommendations, testimony, or comments to the Congress;

20 j) The NTSB is empowered to designate representatives to serve
21 or assist on such committees as the Chairperson determines to be necessary
22 or appropriate to maintain effective liaison with executive departments,

1 other government agencies, and with independent standard setting bodies
2 carrying out programs and activities related to transportation safety;

3 k) The NTSB or any employee of the NTSB duly designated by
4 the Chairperson, may conduct an inquiry to secure data with respect to any
5 matter pertinent to transportation safety, upon publication of notice of such
6 inquiry in the Official Gazette or newspaper of general circulation; and may
7 require, by special or general orders, government agencies and persons
8 engaged in the transportation of people or property in commerce to submit
9 written report and answers to such requests or questions as are propounded
10 with respect to any matter pertinent to any function of the NTSB. Such
11 reports and answers shall be submitted to the NTSB or to such employee
12 within a reasonable period of time as the NTSB may determine. Copies
13 thereof shall be made available for inspection by the public;

14 l) The NTSB may delegate any of its power and functions to the
15 heads of the different bureaus, divisions or offices of NTSB to further
16 facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this Act;

17 m) Establish such rules and regulations as may be necessary to the
18 exercise of its powers and functions under this Act.

19 SEC. 15. ***Functions of the NTSB.*** – The NTSB shall be the primary
20 government body to conduct accident investigations in accordance with the
21 provisions of this Act.

22 The following are the primary functions of the NTSB:

1 a) Investigate or cause to be investigated, in such details as it shall
2 prescribe, and determine the facts, conditions, and circumstances and the
3 cause or probable cause or causes of the following accidents resulting to a
4 fatality or substantial property damage:

5 1) Aircraft accident, except those involving aircraft operated by
6 the Armed Forces of the Philippines and law enforcement agencies, or
7 occurring within military sites in the Philippines, or an accident
8 involving solely an aircraft of the armed forces of any foreign country
9 occurring in the Philippines, which shall be the responsibility of the
10 military. For the purpose of this Act, the term "*military sites*" means
11 those areas within the Philippines which are under the control of the
12 military of the Philippines or the military of another country.;"

13 2) Land transportation accident;

14 3) Railway accident;

15 4) Maritime accident, except those involving only vessels used by
16 the Armed Forces of the Philippines, occurring on the navigable waters
17 or territorial seas of the Philippines, or involving a vessel of the
18 Philippines, in accordance with the regulations to be prescribed jointly
19 by the NTSB and the Secretary of Transportation in which the Coast
20 Guard is operating. Any maritime accident involving a public vessel
21 and any other vessel shall be investigated and the facts, conditions, and
22 circumstances, and the cause or probable cause determined and made

1 available to the public by either the NTSB or the Secretary of
2 Transportation; and

3 5) Other accidents which occur in connection with the
4 transportation of people or property, equipment or hazardous materials
5 which, in the judgment of the NTSB, is catastrophic, involve problems
6 of a recurring character, or would otherwise carry out the above-stated
7 policy of the State. Nothing therein shall prevent the NTSB from
8 making further inquiries on accidents already investigated by existing
9 accident-investigating bodies. Furthermore, the NTSB may require the
10 submission of their records, reports, findings and recommendations of
11 past investigations.

12 b) Report in writing on the facts, conditions, and circumstances of
13 each accident investigated pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section and
14 cause such reports to be made available to the public and cause notice of the
15 issuance and availability of such reports when already published in the
16 Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation;

17 c) Issue periodic reports to Congress and government agencies
18 concerned with transportation safety, and other interested persons
19 recommending and advocating meaningful responses to reduce the
20 likelihood of recurrence of transportation accidents similar to those
21 investigated by the NTSB and proposing corrective steps to make the

1 transportation of persons and goods as safe and free from risk of injury or
2 loss as possible;

3 d) Make transportation safety recommendations to national
4 agencies and private organizations to reduce the likelihood of recurrences of
5 transportation accidents;

6 e) Initiate and conduct special studies and special investigations
7 on matters pertaining to safety in transportation;

8 f) Assess and reassess techniques and methods of accident
9 investigation, prepare and publish from time to time recommended
10 procedures for accident investigations;

11 g) Evaluate, assess the effectiveness, and publish the findings of
12 the NTSB with respect to the transportation safety consciousness and
13 efficacy in preventing accidents of other government agencies, as well as
14 promote transportation safety consciousness in both the national and local
15 governments;

16 h) Evaluate the adequacy of safeguards and procedures concerning
17 the transportation of hazardous materials and the performance of carriers and
18 other government agencies charged with assuring the safe transportation of
19 such materials;

20 i) Gather, analyze and survey, and keep data and statistics related
21 to transportation accidents; and

1 j) Prepare and submit annual reports which shall include specific
2 proposals for corrective legislation to the Department of Transportation,
3 with copies simultaneously furnished to the appropriate committees of the
4 Senate and the House of Representatives.

5 Other government agencies mandated to investigate concurrently the
6 accidents mentioned in this section shall coordinate with the NTSB in the
7 performance of its functions. In addition, it shall give full support to the
8 actions and policies dictated by the NTSB during the conduct of
9 investigations.

10 **CHAPTER IV**
11 **SPECIAL BOARD OF INQUIRY**
12 **AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

13
14 SEC. 16. *Special Board of Inquiry.* – (a) If an accident involves a
15 substantial question about public safety, the NTSB may establish a special
16 board of inquiry composed of the following:

- 17 i) One (1) member of the NTSB acting as chairperson;
18 ii) Two (2) members representing the public, appointed by the
19 President of the Philippines on notification of the creation of the
20 special board of inquiry.

21 (b) The public members of a special board of inquiry must be
22 qualified by training and experience to participate in the inquiry and may

1 not have a pecuniary interest in an enterprise related to the mode of
2 transportation involved in the accident to be investigated.

3 (c) A special board of inquiry has the same authority that the
4 NTSB has under this Act.

5 SEC. 17. *Recommendations of the NTSB.* – The NTSB shall
6 recommend to the Secretary of Transportation the recall of any defective
7 conveyance and to cause the installation of the required part or parts to make
8 it safe and notify not only the distributor or purchasers but also the public of
9 such defect. It shall also recommend the grounding of any defective
10 conveyance pending the investigation of the cause or nature of its defect.
11 Moreover, the NTSB may also recommend the denial, amendment,
12 modification, suspension, or revocation of a certificate of public
13 convenience, registration or franchise if the modes of conveyance, including
14 the transportation activities of a commercial carrier, have been found
15 negligent in ensuring transportation safety.

16 Wherever the NTSB submits a recommendation regarding
17 transportation safety to the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary shall
18 respond to each such recommendation formally and in writing not later than
19 thirty (30) days after receipt thereof. The response to the NTSB by the
20 Secretary shall indicate any intention to:

- 1 i) Initiate and conduct procedures for adopting such
2 recommendation in full, pursuant to a proposed timetable, a copy
3 of which shall be included;
- 4 ii) Initiate and conduct procedures for adopting such
5 recommendation in part, pursuant to a proposed timetable, a copy
6 of which shall be included. Such response shall set forth in detail
7 the reasons for the refusal to proceed as to the remainder of such
8 recommendation; and
- 9 iii) Refuse to initiate or conduct procedures for adopting such
10 recommendation. Such response shall set forth in detail the
11 reasons for such refusal.

12 SEC. 18. *Use of Reports in Actions for Damages.* – No part of any
13 report of the NTSB relating to any accident or the investigation thereof, shall
14 be admitted as evidence or used in any suit or action for damages arising out
15 of any matter mentioned in such report or reports. Furthermore, the NTSB
16 shall have immunity from suits arising from its investigation,
17 pronouncements and findings.

18 CHAPTER V

19 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

20 SEC. 19. *Relationship with Other Government Agencies.* – Nothing
21 in this Act shall deprive other government agencies from performing their
22 function of investigating transportation accidents as required by existing
23

1 laws or making inquiries thereon: Provided, That the NTSB shall be the
2 primary investigator of any transportation accident enumerated under
3 Section 15 of this Act and the NTSB may request assistance from other
4 government agencies in conducting its investigation.

5 The NTSB, at its discretion, may require the submission of the
6 records, findings and recommendations of the appropriate agency with
7 regard the investigation or inquiry conducted. For this purpose, the
8 concerned agency shall submit to the NTSB, within fifteen (15) days from
9 receipt of the order, said records, findings and recommendations.

10 In the exercise of its powers, the NTSB shall take into consideration
11 the provisions of any treaty entered into by the Republic of the Philippines
12 with other countries relative to the investigation of accidents over which the
13 NTSB assumed jurisdiction.

14 SEC. 20. **Annual Report.** – The NTSB shall submit to both Houses of
15 Congress an annual report at the end of each year. Such report shall include
16 the following:

17 a) A statistical and analytical summary of the transportation
18 accident investigations conducted and reviewed by the NTSB during the
19 preceding calendar year;

20 b) A survey and summary, in such detail as the NTSB deems
21 advisable, of the recommendations made by the NTSB to reduce the

1 likelihood of recurrence of such accidents together with the observed
2 response to each recommendation;

3 c) An appraisal in detail of the accident investigation and accident
4 prevention activities of other government agencies charged by law with
5 responsibility in this field; and

6 d) Recommendations for legislative and administrative actions or
7 changes with respect to transportation safety.

8 SEC. 21. *Fiscal Autonomy.* – The NTSB shall enjoy fiscal
9 autonomy. Their approved annual appropriations shall be automatically and
10 regularly released.

11 SEC. 22. *Appropriations.* – The NTSB shall receive an appropriation
12 in the amount of Thirty Million Pesos (P30,000,000.00) to finance its
13 operation for the first year to be appropriated out of the funds of the National
14 Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, such amounts as may be
15 necessary and sufficient to finance its operations and activities shall be
16 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

17 CHAPTER VI 18 FINAL PROVISIONS

19
20 SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is
21 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
22 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders,
2 proclamation, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent
3 with any of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers
6 of general circulation.

7 Approved,