

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 4034



Introduced by **REP. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the many countries around the globe that still grapple with the perils brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. And unfortunately, the fallen victims of this crisis are the drivers of our public utility vehicles and their children, who have no choice but to confront the challenges brought about by the online distance and hybrid mode of learning.

In safeguarding the Filipino family, no less than our 1987 Constitution provides that "[t]he State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development¹." Likewise, it² also emphasizes the importance of family, stating that "[t]he State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development."

Consistent with these principles, this proposed measure seeks to reaffirm our commitment to recognize the efforts poured in by our drivers, colloquially known as *tsuper*³, who relentlessly supported their son or daughter, with them taking pride in reaching heights in educational milestones.

The restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 have shown that poverty and inequality were heavily exacerbated. As a result, the proportion of households living below the official poverty line has grown exponentially. In the gloom and throes of this virulent virus, the sudden displacement of our PUV drivers and their families brought much anxiety to them. Their morale is shattered. Endurance despite torment is one thing; survival is another.

Right now, there is a difficult and challenging balance between public health and public transportation. That remains to be undisputable. But even before this health crisis, our PUV drivers have been discharging an indispensable public function: to provide each passenger a safe ride to and from their workplace.

Our humble contribution is to recognize the fruit of labor of our Tsuperheroes. This proposed measure stands as a testament to that. In this light, I enjoin my colleagues for your support of this important piece of legislation.


CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM

¹ Article II, Section 10.

² Article XV, Section 1.

³ *drayber, tagamaneho, tagapagmaneho*

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AN ACT

HONORING FILIPINO PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE (PUV) DRIVERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE TSUPERHERO RECOGNITION PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "*TsuperHERO Recognition Program Act.*"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development. In recognizing the vital role of parents in supporting the developmental and educational needs of the children, the State shall formulate a scheme that will reward the same.

Towards these ends, the State shall institute a program that will recognize the hardships of parental care who have endured the challenges of life and has successfully supported their child in completing tertiary education.

SEC. 3. Establishment of the Tsuperhero Recognition Program. — The Tsuperhero Recognition Program is hereby established as the central mechanism of the government to reward Filipino families whose any of the parents are drivers of Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs) and has successfully supported their children until the completion of their baccalaureate degree program from any tertiary educational institutions duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED): *Provided*, that each family may qualify only at one time to ensure equitable and distributive access for eligible beneficiaries. *Provided further*, that PUV drivers shall be a member of any *bona fide* transport organization accredited by the Department of Transportation (DoTr) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

SEC. 4. Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift. — All PUV drivers whose children have completed any bachelor's degree shall be honored with

- i. A Letter of Felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating both the PUV driver and his or her children for reaching this milestone in achieving quality education; and,
- ii. A one-time cash gift in the net amount of fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) only.
The award shall be made available upon securing the following prerequisites for proper determination of eligibility:
 - a. mutual consent of the PUV driver and his or her child, and
 - b. the acknowledgment of the child recognizing the sacrifice and support of their PUV driver parent.

SEC. 5. Role of Local Government Units. — In addition to the letter of felicitation and cash gift as provided in Section 4 hereof, the respective Local Government Unit that has jurisdiction over the residence of the PUV Driver shall award a plaque of appreciation and a cash incentive to be determined by the same LGU. This shall be awarded during any formal ceremony to be hosted by the LGU.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to cover the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriation of the DoTr under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7 Implementation and Interagency Coordination. — The DoTr is hereby authorized to be the agency that is principally responsible in the administration and implementation of the TsuperHERO Recognition Program. In coordination with the DoTr, the LTFRB, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and CHED shall provide the necessary administrative and organizational support in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.

To effectively secure the mutual consent of the PUV driver and his or her child, the DoTr, in joint coordination with CHED, shall formulate the guidelines necessary in documenting the accuracy and veracity of the relevant forms to be accomplished and signed by both parties. *Provided,* that in special cases wherein the child has supported himself or herself until the completion of his or her college degree, among other relevant circumstances, the DoTr shall establish a mechanism that will handle and address the same accordingly, as the case may apply.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the heads of other participating government agencies, shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved