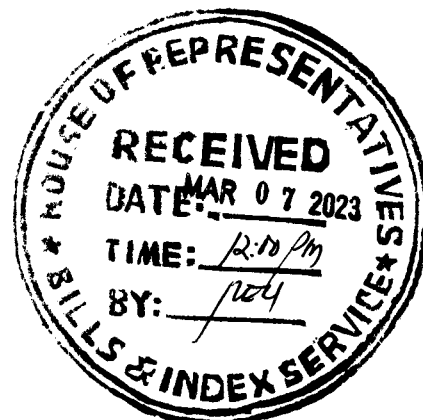


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7491**



Introduced by

Senior Citizens Party-List Representative RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP), also known as the number coding scheme, is a traffic management measure implemented in some cities and municipalities in the Philippines to reduce the volume of vehicles on the road during peak hours. Under this scheme, vehicles are banned from plying the roads based on the last digit of their license plate number.

In recognition of the contribution and welfare of senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs), it is proposed that automatic exemption from the UVVRP be granted to them. This will benefit senior citizens who are still actively driving their vehicles, allowing them to travel and conduct their daily activities without the limitations imposed by the UVVRP. Notably, most senior citizens and PWDs seldom ply the streets due to their inherent limitations and only ply the streets to attend to their medical, day-to-day needs, and other urgent matters they need to attend to.

According to a study by the World Health Organization (WHO), road traffic injuries are a leading cause of death among people aged 60 years and above. In fact according to the WHO, senior citizens are generally safe and responsible drivers since they are more likely to adhere to traffic rules and regulations, such as wearing seat belts and following speed limits.

Notably, the restriction under programs like the UVVRP force senior citizens and PWDS into hostile driving conditions such as, but not limited to, congested traffic and/or

evening drive. By exempting senior citizens from the UVVRP, their safety on the road is enhanced as they are given more flexibility to travel during non-peak hours when the roads are less congested.

Furthermore, granting automatic exemption to senior citizens and PWDs from the UVVRP can also have a positive impact to them and the general public, in consonance to our public policy granting the same exemption to the members of the media, medical practitioners, or government officials since they are also uniquely situated as them.

Granting automatic exemption to senior citizens and PWDS from the UVVRP is a beneficial policy that recognizes their contribution to society and promotes their safety and welfare on the road. With the increasing number of senior citizens in the country, this policy can greatly improve their quality of life and enhance their participation in the community.

This bill seeks to enhance the mobility of senior citizens and PWDS and allow them flexibly respond to the exigencies of their unique circumstances by exempting them from the government's Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RODOLFO' with a stylized flourish.

RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7491**

Introduced by
Senior Citizens Party-List Representative RODOLFO “OMPONG” M. ORDANES

AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXEMPTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE UNIFIED VEHICULAR VOLUME REDUCTION PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT (RA) NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING RA NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATIONAL BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS, AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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 “Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Color Coding Exemption Act”.

SEC 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9994, as amended, to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. Government Assistance. – the Government shall provide the following assistance to those caring for and living with senior citizens:

(h) Additional Government Assistance

(4) Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities shall be automatically exempted from the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program, provided that, the vehicle subject to the said program is currently being commandeered by them or are carrying them. Provided further, that they present any identification document which will identify them as such at the time of apprehension ”

SEC 3. *Suppletory Application.* – For purposes of this Act, the Revised Penal Code, and other applicable laws, shall have suppletory application.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,