

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9140



INTRODUCED BY HON. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Navigating the urban jungles' road network not only contribute to the already high cost of transportation in our country but it also awakens some of the behaviors that need not only be minimized in our streets but also should be totally eradicated if we are to enjoy the joys of being behind the wheels. Were it not for the CCTV's in place the truth of the incident would not have been revealed and the public left alone wondering who were telling the truth.

No less than the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives took turns in investigating the road rage incident which magnified a problem which had been plaguing not only our city streets but also every road network in our country. It involves a heated argument between a gun toting Supreme Court employee ex policeman and a cyclist the outcome of which brought to the fore the malady that is happening in our streets that affects the peace and order in our community. Such recent viral video encouraged this representation to seek for the criminalization of such act which imperils members of our society and treat it not just another traffic violation.

The current situation of our road in the metropolitan has a serious implication like status of person, complicated, we lost a lot of time due to traffic and sometimes unfortunately road mishaps would result not only in the loss of limbs but also of precious lives. A lot of things that mainly contribute to the factor of road accidents in our country, human factors such as inexperience, lack of skill, and risk-taking behaviors have been associated with the collisions of not only young drivers. Uncontrollable behaviors that are associated with collision and destruction to lives and properties are not good. We need to stop this kind of aggressive behavior that triggers road rage and impose penalties for those drivers who are engaged or exhibiting this kind of aggressiveness in driving. Having a license is not a right of one person, and the state has the right to adopt adequate measures like confiscate, remove and impose penalties for those drivers who have abused such privilege.

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


RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

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AN ACT
PENALIZING ACTS OF ROAD RAGE 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 "***Anti-Road Rage Act of 2023.***"

SEC2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to make roads safer for all - pedestrians and motorists alike. In this light, policies must therefore be established to protect all road users from all acts of road rage that not only cause unwarranted road obstruction but physical harm and even death in extreme cases.

SEC 3. Definition of Terms. - The following terms as used in this Act shall mean the following:

- a. **Road Rage** refers to the aggressive, hostile or violent behavior in traffic or on the road by a motorist which may include the following:
 - i. wild gesturing at the other concerned party or any of his/her passengers
 - ii. cursing or using bad language or any form of verbal insults
 - iii. any physical attack at another or an attempt thereof
 - iv. reckless driving
 - v. any kinds of threat or intimidation
 - vi. any use of force against another person; and
 - vii. other analogous circumstances, including all other acts that may fall under the Revised Penal Code and other Special Penal Laws, as may be applicable.
- b. **Motorist** refers to any individual operating a motor vehicle on public roads.
- c. **Pedestrian** refers to any person on foot using the roadways.

SEC 4. Penalty. - Any person who engages in Road Rage as defined in this Act, when no injury or death occurred, shall be punished by Prison Correctional in its medium period to Prison Mayor in its minimum period, and a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) at the discretion of the court.

In cases resulting in physical injury, regardless of the degree, shall be punished by Prison Correctional in its maximum period to Prison Mayor in its medium period and a fine of not less One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00) exclusive of all the damages incurred, shall be imposed at the discretion of the court.

In cases resulting to death of a party, a penalty of imprisonment covered by Prison Mayor in its maximum period to Reclusion Temporal in its medium period and a fine of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) exclusive of all the damages incurred, shall be imposed at the discretion of the court.

In cases where the offending party in a Road Rage is a government official or employee, he or she shall suffer, in addition to the proceeding mentioned penalties the accessory penalty of perpetual disqualification from government service.

SEC 5. *Revocation of Driver's License.* - The driver's license of a person who engages in Road Rage shall be revoked by the issuing authority upon notice and shall not be eligible for renewal for the next five (5) years following the revocation thereof.

SEC 6. *Authority of the Government to Prosecute.* - The government, through the appropriate legal and law enforcement agencies, shall have the authority to prosecute suspects of road rage on behalf of victims. This authority shall be exercised in cases where victims are unable or unwilling to pursue legal action due to fear, intimidation, or other reasons.

SEC. 7. *Independent Action.* - Nothing in this Act shall preclude a victim of Road Rage from instituting a separate civil, criminal, administrative, or other legal action, as may be appropriate.

SEC 8. *Aggravating Circumstance.* - If a more serious crime is committed during a Road Rage, the latter shall be considered an aggravating circumstance as provided under Article 14, Section 1 of the Revised Penal Code.

SEC 9. *Defense.* - Being under the influence of alcohol, any illicit drug, or any other mind-altering substance shall be considered as aggravating circumstance under this act.

SEC 10. *Establishment of Dedicated Unit.* - The Department of Justice (DOJ), through the National Prosecution Service (NPS), shall establish a dedicated unit tasked with handling Road Rage cases, ensuring swift and efficient prosecution of offenders.

SEC. 11. *Protection of Victims and Witnesses.* - The government shall provide necessary protection to victims and witnesses of Road Rage incidents, ensuring their safety and security throughout the legal process.

SEC 12. *Compulsory Anger Management Program.* - In addition to the penalties, convicted individuals shall be required to undergo a government-approved anger management program to address their aggressive behavior and prevent Road Rage incidents.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - The DOJ, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Land Transportation Office, and other relevant government agencies shall formulate and promulgate necessary rules and regulations for the implementation this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC 14. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of the Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other Provisions hereof which are not affected hereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC 15. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, rules and regulation inconsistent with the provision of this Act hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 16. *Effectivity.* - This shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in two (2) national newspaper of the general circulation.

Approved,