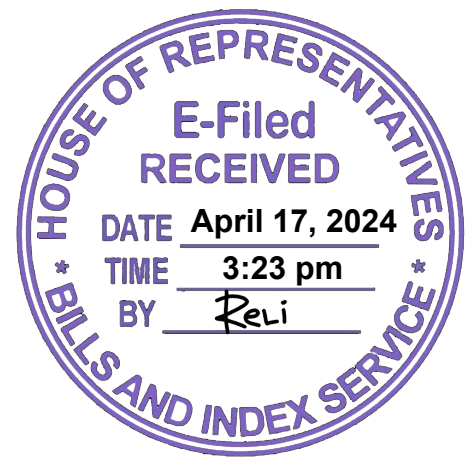


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



House Bill No. **10257**

Introduced by Honorable Eduardo “Brother Eddie” C. Villanueva

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The rampant misuse of beacons, sirens, and other emergency vehicle lights and audio devices by motor vehicle drivers, particularly by politicians, presents a grave road safety issue in the Philippines. This misuse not only poses hazards on the roads but also undermines public trust in the responsible operation of motor vehicles, especially when perpetrated by public officials seeking undue advantages or asserting unwarranted authority over other road users.

Existing regulations issued by various law enforcement agencies such as the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) lack consistency, leading to confusion and ineffective enforcement. This proposed legislation aims to tackle these challenges by establishing a unified framework to regulate and deter the unauthorized use of emergency vehicle lights and audio devices, while ensuring their proper use in appropriate circumstances such as transporting patients or victims requiring urgent medical attention.

The proposed legislation is aligned with the Constitutional principle that protecting life and property and promoting the general welfare are fundamental for all citizens to enjoy the benefits of democracy. By promoting responsible use of beacons, sirens, and other emergency vehicle equipment while driving or operating a motor vehicle, the bill reinforces ethical conduct among government officials and personnel, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing public interest over personal gain, particularly on Philippine roads.

Moreover, the bill provides clear definitions to delineate between authorized and unauthorized use of emergency vehicle equipment. It also imposes stringent penalties, including fines and suspension of driver's licenses, to deter individuals from engaging in unlawful use of such devices.

To ensure effective implementation, the bill assigns specific responsibilities to relevant government agencies, primarily the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the LTO, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies and local government units (LGUs). Additionally, it mandates comprehensive information campaigns to raise awareness about the lawful use of emergency vehicle equipment and the associated penalties.

In summary, this bill aims to enhance road safety, uphold ethical standards in public service, and streamline regulations governing emergency vehicle lights and audio devices. By establishing clear guidelines and enforcement mechanisms, the proposed law seeks to promote orderly and secure roadways across the Philippines.

In this light, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. C. Villanueva', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HON. EDUARDO C. VILLANUEVA
Representative
CIBAC Partylist

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

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HOUSE BILL NO. 10257

Introduced by Representatives Eduardo "Brother Eddie" C. Villanueva

AN ACT

PROHIBITING THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF BEACONS, SIRENS, AND OTHER EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHTS AND AUDIO ACCESSORIES FOR MOVING VEHICLES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the Anti-Wang Wang Act.

2
3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies.** - Pursuant to the Constitutional principle that
4 recognizes the protection of life and property and the promotion of the general
5 welfare as essential for the enjoyment of the blessings of democracy, it is hereby
6 declared the policy of the State to ensure the safety of all road users through the
7 observance of the responsible use of motor vehicles.
8 It is also the policy of the State to promote the highest standard of ethics in public
9 service, and to ensure that public officials and personnel foster public trust by
10 living modestly and prioritizing public interest over personal gain, especially in
11 the use of shared spaces such as Philippine roads.

12
13 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms
14 shall have the following meanings:

15
16 (a) Emergency Vehicle Light refers to lights, other than headlights and
17 taillights as defined under Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the
18 Land Transportation and Traffic Code, as amended, that are dedicated to
19 convey urgency, warnings, or signaling during law enforcement and other
20 authorized activities, including but not limited to rotating lights or beacons
21 or dome lights, fixed flashing lights, strobe lights, and light-emitting diode
22 (LED) lighting, oscillating lights, blinkers, and shall also refer to after-
23 marketing modifications such as wig-wag devices that are designed to flash
24 the headlamps alternately or hideaway lights;

25
26 (b) Audio Accessory refers to a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle or any other
27 similar device and shall include a horn or signalling device that emits an
28 exceptionally loud, startling, or disagreeable sound, other than the horn or

1 signalling device built in the motor vehicle as defined and allowed under R.A.
2 No. 4136, as amended; and
3

4 (c) Motor Vehicle refers to any land transportation vehicle propelled by any
5 power other than muscular power.
6

7 **SEC. 4. Regulating the Use of Emergency Vehicle Lighting and Audio**
8 **Accessories in Motor Vehicles. –**

- 9 1) It shall be unlawful for any person, including government officials and
10 personnel, to use an emergency vehicle light or audio accessory while
11 driving or operating a motor vehicle, or to attach such lights or audio
12 accessories to or within the motor vehicle, except when authorized under
13 Subsection 3 of this Section and subject to the conditions set forth in
14 Subsections 4 or 5 of this Section, as applicable.
15
- 16 2) The prohibition under Subsection 1 of this Section shall apply to the
17 registered owner of a private motor vehicle, or a government official or
18 personnel to whom an official vehicle has been assigned for use, who
19 permits the use of an emergency vehicle light or audio accessory while
20 driving or operating a motor vehicle, or permits such lights or audio
21 accessories to be attached to or within the motor vehicle. If any person
22 uses an emergency vehicle light or audio accessory while driving or
23 operating a motor vehicle that is not clearly marked as designated for
24 official use under Subsection 3(a) of this Section or is not used to transport
25 patients or victims, or for emergency purposes or calamity-related activities
26 under Subsection 3(b) of this Section, the owner in case of a private motor
27 vehicle or government official or personnel to whom an official vehicle has
28 been assigned for use, shall be presumed to have permitted the use of such
29 emergency vehicle light or audio accessory.
30
- 31 3) A person may, subject to the conditions set forth in Subsections 4 or 5 of
32 this Section, as applicable, lawfully use an emergency vehicle light or audio
33 accessory while driving or operating a motor vehicle that is:
34
- 35 a. Designated for official use by the Armed Forces of the Philippines
36 (AFP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and Philippine National
37 Police (PNP), Bureau of Corrections (BuCoR), Bureau of Jail
38 Management and Penology (BJMP), and law enforcement agencies,
39 and clearly marked as such, including but not limited to patrol
40 vehicles, armored vehicles, and prisoner's vans; Provided, That,
41 vehicles designated for official use by local government officials or
42 personnel shall be subject to issuances by the respective local
43 government units pursuant to Section 9 of this Act; or
44
- 45 b. Necessary for the transportation of patients or victims, such as
46 medical ambulances, or for emergency purposes or calamity-related
47 activities, such as fire trucks operated by the Bureau of Fire
48 Protection (BFP) or volunteer firefighter organizations, and clearly
49 marked as such: Provided, That, volunteer firefighter organizations

1 must obtain a permit from the BFP prior to using such lights and/or
2 audio accessories; Provided, Further, that private healthcare facilities
3 or organizations that will operate a private ambulance must obtain a
4 similar permit from the Department of Health (DOH) prior to using
5 such lights and/or audio accessories on any of its registered motor
6 vehicles to be used as ambulances or for patient transport.
7

- 8 4) A person who is authorized to use an emergency vehicle light while driving
9 or operating a motor vehicle pursuant to Subsection 3 of this Section shall
10 not use such light or otherwise put it into operation, unless:
11 a. The motor vehicle is coming to a stop or halted on a road;
12 b. It is necessary to do so for the safe operation of the motor vehicle;
13 or
14 c. The vehicle presents a hazard to other vehicles on a road.
15 5) A person who is authorized to use an audio accessory while driving or
16 operating a motor vehicle pursuant to Subsection 3 of this Section shall not
17 use such audio accessory, except to warn other road users of the driver's
18 intention to stop, abruptly reduce speed, turn, or change lanes.
19

20 **SEC. 5. Prohibition on the Sale of Emergency Vehicle Lights and Audio**
21 **Accessories. -**

- 22 1) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, import, distribute, sell,
23 market, or promote an emergency vehicle light or audio accessory, except
24 to volunteer firefighter organizations and private healthcare facilities or
25 organizations that will operate a private ambulance upon presentation of
26 the applicable BFP or DOH permit.
27
28 2) All manufacturers, importers, distributors, or sellers of an emergency
29 vehicle light or audio accessory covered under this Act shall maintain
30 records of completed sales permitted under this Section, which shall be
31 open for inspection by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) subject to
32 guidelines to be prescribed for this purpose.
33

34 **SEC. 6. Implementation.**
35

- 36 1) The DOTr, through the LTO, shall oversee and ensure the implementation
37 of the provisions of this Act in coordination with the PNP through the
38 Highway Patrol Group (HPG), BFP, DOH, and other concerned agencies. LTO
39 enforcement officers and duly designated enforcement officers from other
40 law enforcement agencies, including local government units (LGUs), shall
41 be responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.
42
43 2) The LTO shall have the power to issue other policies, rules, regulations, and
44 standards for the effective implementation of this Act, and shall develop
45 guidelines prescribing the procedure to enforce Sections 4 and 5 of this Act
46 within four (4) months from effectivity of this Act. The authority of the LTO
47 under this Subsection shall include the power to regularly publish and
48 update a list of devices that may be considered as emergency vehicle lights

and audio accessories that are covered under this Act, with due regard to emerging technologies.

- 3) The LTO shall consolidate reports of violations committed by government officials or personnel and make recommendations for the institution of criminal and/or administrative cases against such officials or personnel for violations of the provisions of this Act, to the Office of the Ombudsman or agency, as may be applicable.

SEC. 7. Penalties. - In addition to the penalties provided under existing laws, the following acts shall be penalized:

- 1) Any driver in violation of Section 4(1), Section 4(4), or Section 4(5) of this Act shall be fined One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for the first offense; Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) for the second offense; Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) and suspension of the driver's license for a period of one (1) year for the third and succeeding offenses: Provided, That, in case the driver of a private motor vehicle is not the owner of the vehicle, the owner shall be solitarily liable with the driver for the fine/s imposed under this subsection; Provided, Further, that in case a government official or personnel to whom an official vehicle has been designated for use, is not the driver or a passenger of such vehicle, he/she shall be solitarily liable with the driver of the motor vehicle for the fine imposed under this Subsection, in addition to administrative and other sanctions and penalties that may apply under prevailing laws, rules, and regulations, such as but not limited to Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.
- 2) Any manufacturer, distributor, importer, retailer, or seller who violates Section 5 of this Act shall be punished with a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) for each and every emergency vehicle light or audio accessory that is manufactured, distributed, imported and/or sold, without prejudice to other penalties imposed under Republic Act No. 7394 otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

SEC. 8. Safe Use of Roads for Transporting Patients, Victims, and for Other Public Security Purposes. - The LTO shall conduct a study on road use and traffic management strategies for the safe transportation of patients and victims, or for conducting emergency or disaster response, and make necessary recommendations to Congress for other safety measures: Provided, That, the LTO shall ensure that such measures safeguard the safety of all types of road users; Provided, Further, that such measures shall ensure the highest affordable protection to pedestrians, cyclists, and road users travelling on public or mass transportation vehicles and active modes of transportation.

The LTO shall conduct the study within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, and shall furnish a copy of the results of such study to the President and the Congress of the Philippines.

1
2 **SEC. 9. Local Government Units. –**
3

- 4 1) LGUs, through appropriate ordinances, shall enforce mechanisms to
5 implement the provisions of this Act, subject to the provisions of Republic
6 Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and
7 other applicable laws, rules, and regulations. The LTO, in coordination with
8 the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall provide
9 the technical support to LGUs for the development of such issuances.
10
11 2) LGUs shall regularly report apprehended violators to the LTO for the
12 appropriate recording of demerits pursuant to the Implementing Rules and
13 Regulations of Republic Act No. 10930 or An Act Rationalizing and
14 Strengthening the Policy Regarding Driver's Licenses by Extending the
15 Validity Period of Driver's Licenses, and Penalizing Acts in Violation of Its
16 Issuance and Application, Amending for Those Purposes Section 23 of
17 Republic Act No. 4136, as Amended by Batas Pambansa Blg. 398 and
18 Executive Order No. 1011, Otherwise Known as the Land Transportation
19 and Traffic Code, and other applicable laws, rules and regulations, and for
20 purposes of making recommendations for the institution of appropriate
21 administrative and/or criminal proceedings pursuant to Section 6 of this Act.

22 **SEC. 10. Information, Education, and Communications Campaign.**
23

- 24 1) The DOTr, PNP, BFP, DOH, Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in
25 partnership with organizations from the private sector, civil society, and
26 academe shall undertake regular nationwide Information, Education and
27 Communication (IEC) campaign within six (6) months from the passage of
28 this Act. The IC campaign shall include information on the emergency
29 vehicle lights and audio accessories that are covered under this Act, and
30 the permitted use of such lights and audio accessories and relevant
31 processes.
32
33 2) The DOTr may call upon any government agency and partner with relevant
34 organizations from the private sector, civil society, and academe, to extend
35 their full support and cooperation for the implementation of this Act.
36

37 **SEC. 11. Annual Report. -** The DOTr shall conduct a periodic review of the
38 implementation of this Act, including enforcement by other government agencies
39 and LGUs, and submit a report on such review to the President and Congress of
40 the Philippines not later than June 30 of each year.
41

42 **SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. -** Within four (4) months
43 from the effectivity of this Act, the DOTr, LTO, PNP-HPG, all concerned agencies,
44 upon prior consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing
45 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
46

47 **SEC. 13. Appropriations. -** The amount necessary for the implementation of
48 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
49

1 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
2 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, including but not limited to issuances
3 promulgated by the LTO, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and other
4 agencies, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
5

6 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
7 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
8 provisions hereof.
9

10 **SEC. 16. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its
11 publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

12 Approved,