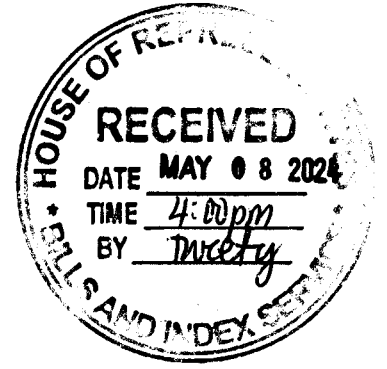


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10374



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO,  
JOCELYN P. TULFO, AND ERWIN T. TULFO**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING SUBSIDIES FOR INDIGENT PUBLIC UTILITY  
DRIVERS IN THE PAYMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN  
CERTIFICATES AND CLEARANCES REQUIRED BY THE LAND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN APPLYING FOR A PROFESSIONAL  
DRIVER'S LICENSE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Public utility vehicles are a diverse range of transportation modes designed to cater to the general public. Public utility drivers contribute significantly to the local economy, making transportation a dynamic and essential sector.<sup>1</sup> However, among these drivers are indigents who find it difficult to shoulder the fees and charges required of them as licensed drivers.

Public utility drivers must meet certain qualifications, including having a professional driver's license, attending relevant seminars or training, and passing medical examinations.<sup>2</sup> The requirements for a Professional Driver's License include: (1) a Land Transportation (LTO)-accredited Medical Certificate; (2) a Practical Driving Course (PDC) Certificate; (3) a Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-issued Birth Certificate; (4) a valid National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) or Police Clearance; and (5) a negative drug-test result from a Department of Health (DOH)-accredited testing center and/or government hospital.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, an application fee of Six Hundred Eighty-Five Pesos (Php685.00) must be paid to the LTO to facilitate the processing of an application for a new driver's license. However, total costs may reach as high as Php8,000 to Php10,000 with the cost of a driving school course.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Public Utility Vehicles (PUV): Meaning, Purpose, and Examples", *LTO Portal PH*, Accessed 22 Apr. 2024, <https://ltoportal.ph/public-utility-vehicle-puv/>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> "How to Get LTO Driver's License in the Philippines", *LTO Portal PH*, Accessed 22 Apr. 2024, <https://ltoportal.ph/lto-drivers-license/>

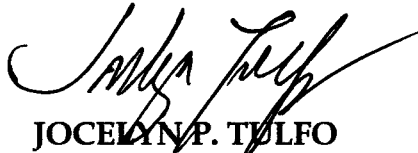
<sup>4</sup> Dela Cruz, Raymond, "LTO: Recommended cap on driving school fees out soon", *Philippine News Agency*, 16 Mar. 2023, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1197572>

This proposed legislative measure aims to ease the financial burden of indigent public utility drivers by providing a twenty percent (20%) discount for qualified applicants in the payment of clearances and certificates, as may be required by the LTO, in applying for a Professional Driver's License.

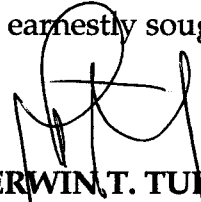
In view of the foregoing, the urgent passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



**RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**  
*Representative*  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of Quezon City



**JOCELYN P. TULFO**  
*Representative*  
ACT-CIS Partylist



**ERWIN T. TULFO**  
*Representative*  
ACT-CIS Partylist

Republic of the Philippines  
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**AN ACT PROVIDING SUBSIDIES FOR INDIGENT PUBLIC UTILITY  
DRIVERS IN THE PAYMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN  
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TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN APPLYING FOR A PROFESSIONAL  
DRIVER'S LICENSE**

*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 “Indigent Public Utility  
Driver’s License Application Subsidy Act.”

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and  
dynamic order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free  
people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote  
full employment, a rising standard of living, and improved quality of life for all.

The State shall contribute towards this end by expanding accessibility to government  
services and providing subsidies and incentives to indigent individuals who seek  
livelihood as drivers of public utility vehicles.

1       **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For this Act, the following terms shall have the  
2 definitions as stated:

- 3
- 4       a) *Applicant* refers to an individual seeking to apply for a license to operate a public  
5       utility vehicle as a means of livelihood. Qualified applicants under this Act are  
6       individuals whose per capita income fall below the official poverty threshold as  
7       defined by the government as identified and certified by the Philippines Statistics  
8       Authority (PSA) based on the criteria set under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise  
9       known as the “Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Act”; and
- 10      b) *Public Utility Vehicle (PUV)* refers to a motor vehicle considered as a public  
11      transport conveyance or common carrier duly registered with the Land  
12      Transportation Office (LTO) and granted a franchise by the Land Transportation  
13      Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB).
- 14

15       **SEC. 4. *Subsidies for Qualified Applicants.*** – Under this Act, qualified applicants  
16      shall be granted a twenty percent (20%) discount in the payment of clearances and  
17      certificates, as may be required by the LTO in applying for a Professional Driver’s  
18      License, including but not limited to:

- 19
- 20      (a) Birth certificate from the PSA;
- 21      (b) Medical certificate from an LTO-accredited clinic or physician;
- 22      (c) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- 23      (d) Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- 24      (e) Enrollment fees for Theoretical and Practical Driving Courses given by LTO-  
25      accredited and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)-  
26      certified driving schools; and
- 27      (f) Examination Fees.
- 28

29      Priority registration shall be given to applicants in cases where the theoretical and  
30      practical driving courses in LTO-accredited and TESDA-certified driving schools can

1 be enrolled free of charge. Furthermore, applicants shall be given a fixed daily  
2 allowance for expenses incurred in the commute to and from their chosen driving  
3 schools.

4  
5 **SEC. 5. Requirement for Subsidy.** – Before the subsidy authorized under this Act  
6 may be availed of, the applicant must be included in the validated list of drivers of PUVs  
7 of the local government unit concerned and must present a certification from the Local  
8 Chief Executive (LCE) of the barangay where the driver resides or the LTFRB before the  
9 LTO. The Certification to be issued by the concerned LCE shall be called “PUV Operator  
10 / Driver Certificate”. Such PUV Operator / Driver Certificate may be issued by the LCE  
11 concerned upon presentation of any proof, which may include a LTFRB Franchise, an  
12 ID issued by a transport organization, and/or proof of Tricycle Operators and Drivers’  
13 Association (TODA) membership.

14  
15 **SEC. 6. Penalties.** – Any public officer or employee who refuses or fails to provide  
16 the benefits granted to qualified applicants outlined in Section 4 of this Act shall, upon  
17 conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) but  
18 not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (PhP20,000.00).

19  
20 Prosecution for an offense outlined in this Act shall be without prejudice to any  
21 liability for violation of any other existing laws, including civil service laws, rules and  
22 regulations.

23  
24 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within six (6) months from the  
25 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Transportation, in consultation with PSA,  
26 Department of Interior and Local Government, NBI, PNP, Department of Justice,  
27 Department of Health, TESDA, and the National Anti-Poverty Commission, shall issue  
28 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

1       **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any section or provision of this Act is held  
2       unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected  
3       and thereby remain in full force and effect.

4  
5       **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and  
6       regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby  
7       repealed or modified accordingly.

8  
9       **SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
10      publication on the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

11  
12      *Approved,*