

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **10707**



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, road safety remains a paramount concern amidst the increasing vehicular traffic and accident rates. To address this issue, the proposed legislation mandates that all car and motorcycle manufacturers must ensure that headlights automatically turn on when the vehicle's engine is running. This measure is designed to enhance vehicle visibility, reduce accidents, and foster a safer road environment for all.

The primary objective of this Act is to elevate road safety standards by improving the visibility of vehicles on Philippine roads. Automatic headlights that activate with the engine running serve as a proactive measure to mitigate accidents arising from poor visibility conditions, especially during daylight hours when drivers may overlook the necessity of manually activating their lights. This initiative aligns with global best practices and addresses a critical aspect of accident prevention.

The Philippine Statistics Authority reports a concerning prevalence of road traffic accidents, with motorcycles and cars being prominent contributors to these incidents. Enhancing vehicle visibility emerges as a crucial strategy in curbing these risks.

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has proactively implemented safety measures such as mandatory helmet use for motorcyclists and seatbelt laws. This Act complements these initiatives by addressing vehicle visibility, a pivotal factor in accident prevention.

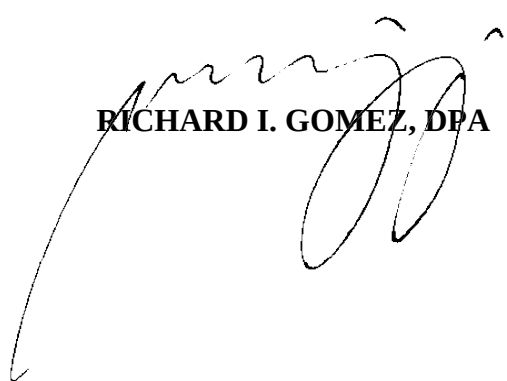
The legislation proposes that all car and motorcycle manufacturers and importers equip new vehicles sold in the Philippines with an automatic headlight activation system when the engine is running. This directive encompasses both domestic production and imported vehicles.

To reinforce the Act's implementation, public awareness campaigns will be conducted by the LTO and relevant government agencies. These initiatives aim to educate the populace on the benefits of automatic headlights and promote broader vehicle safety awareness.

Automatic headlights ensure continuous visibility of vehicles to other road users, diminishing the likelihood of collisions, particularly in conditions of low visibility such as dawn, dusk, and adverse weather. Improved vehicle visibility is anticipated to contribute to a reduction in road traffic accidents and associated fatalities and injuries. The legislation serves as a catalyst for heightened public awareness regarding the significance of vehicle safety features, fostering a culture of responsible driving practices.

This Act represents a significant stride towards fortifying road safety standards in the Philippines. By mandating automatic headlights in all new cars and motorcycles, the legislation aims to mitigate accidents and preserve lives. Successful enactment of this measure necessitates concerted efforts from government agencies, manufacturers, and the public. Through collective action, this Act has the potential to cultivate a safer and more conscientious motorist environment in the Philippines, safeguarding the welfare of all road users.

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



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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**AN ACT MANDATING THAT ALL VEHICLES MANUFACTURED, ASSEMBLED,
BOUGHT, SOLD AND USED IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE EQUIPPED WITH
AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHTS AND TAILLIGHTS WHEN ENGINES ARE TURNED
ON AND RUNNING**

*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 "*Automatic Headlights and
Taillights Activation Act of 2024.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote road safety and reduce vehicular accidents by ensuring that all vehicles are visible to other road users at all times. In pursuit of this goal, the State shall require car and motorcycle manufacturers to equip all new vehicles with an automatic headlight and taillight activation system that turns on the headlights and taillights when the engine is turned on and running.

SEC. 3. *Mandatory Automatic Headlight and Taillight Activation.* – All vehicle manufacturers, assemblers, and distributors must ensure that every new vehicle manufactured, assembled, sold, distributed and used on all Philippine roads, and off-road, are equipped with automatic headlight and taillight activation system. This system must turn on the headlights and taillights when the engine is started and keep the headlights and taillights on as long as the engine is running.

SEC. 4. *Vehicles Required for Compliance of Automatic Headlight and Taillight Activation.* – All vehicles in the Philippines shall comply to the provisions of this Act, namely:

- a) Private, government and commercial four-wheel passenger vehicles, such as sedans, vans, sports utility vehicles, and other vehicles;
- b) Private, government and commercial two-wheel vehicles;
- c) Private, government and commercial three-wheel vehicles;
- d) Private, government and commercial vans, buses, coasters, and the like;
- e) Private, government and commercial construction vehicles, such as back hoes, cold planer, and the like; and
- f) Private, government and commercial trucks with six wheels or more.

SEC. 5. *Compliance for All Fuel Types.* Compliance to this Act shall be required for all vehicle types, regardless of whether engine is fueled by gasoline, diesel, electric power, biomass and other alternative fuels.

SEC. 6. *Compliance for All Existing Vehicles.* The Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall collaborate and coordinate with vehicle manufacturers to make available a simple device or procedural solution to enable automatic headlight and taillight activation for all existing vehicles.

SEC. 7. *Importation Compliance.* – It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to import or distribute any car or motorcycle that is not equipped with an operational automatic headlight and taillight activation system as specified in Section 3 of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Headlight Specifications.* – The headlights must comply with the following specifications to ensure sufficient visibility and safety:

- a) Two-wheel vehicles must be equipped with one (1) automatic headlight and one (1) automatic taillight;
- b) Vehicles with three or more wheels must have two (2) automatic headlights and two (2) automatic taillights;
- c) The headlights must be of sufficient intensity to reveal a person or a vehicle at a distance of not less than 30 meters when the vehicle is operated at any speed less than 40 kilometers per hour, at a distance of not less than 60 meters when operated at a speed of 40 to 55 kilometers per hour, and at a distance of 90 meters when operated at a speed greater than 55 kilometers per hour; and
- d) For vehicles with multi-beam headlights, the upper beam must meet the minimum intensity requirements specified above.

SEC. 9. *Registration Requirements.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, no new vehicle shall be allowed initial registration or renewal of registration unless it is equipped with the necessary automatic headlight activation system. The Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall ensure compliance with this requirement.

SEC. 10. *Penalties and Fines.* – To enforce this Act, the LTO shall impose fines and penalties on manufacturers, importers, distributors, and operators violating its provisions. The following penalties shall apply:

1. For manufacturers, assemblers, importers, and distributors:
 - a. A fine of one million pesos (Php 1,000,000.00) but not exceeding two million pesos (Php 2,000,000.00) and suspension of the license to manufacture, import, or distribute for a period of one (1) year for the first violation;
 - b. A fine of five million pesos (Php 5,000,000.00) and suspension of the license to manufacture, import, or distribute for a period of five (5) years for the second and subsequent violations.
2. For vehicle operators who disable or tamper with the automatic headlight activation system:
 - a. A fine of one thousand pesos (Php1,000.00) but not exceeding two thousand pesos (Php2,000.00) for the first violation;
 - b. A fine of three thousand five hundred pesos (Php3,500.00) but not exceeding five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) and suspension of the driver's license for a period of one (1) month for the second and succeeding violations.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the appropriate government office or agency in coordination with all stakeholders and covered establishments and institutions.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder or any provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,