

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 555



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

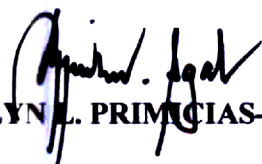
This bill seeks to institutionalize student fare discount in all forms of public transport system to balance the regular mode of public transport vis-à-vis the developing modes of transport systems.

The State shall protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all (Section 1, Article XIV, 1987 Constitution). To this end, the State shall ensure that the students shall also equitably benefit from the fare discounts mandated by the State.

Over the years, significant protective measures have been undertaken by the State to shield students from the soaring cost of education. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) through Memorandum Circular Nos. 94-001, 2003-033, 2005-014, and 2017-024, among others, provided Twenty Percent (20%) fare discount to students. Notably however, these circulars issued by the LTFRB made reference only to transport systems which are within its jurisdiction to regulate. It excluded railway transport system which is within the realm of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to regulate.

To maximize the application of the 20% fare discount in an integrated transport framework, there is a need to institutionalize fare discount to all forms of public transport system regardless of the government agency regulating it.

Hence, this earnest request for the immediate passage of this bill.


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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to provide incentives to ease the financial burden of the students and their parents. Towards this end, the State shall institutionalize the grant of student fare discount to all students at all levels.

SECTION 2. Coverage. — All students, those enrolled in any elementary, secondary, technical and vocational or higher education institution shall avail of the twenty percent (20%) discount from Monday to Sunday including summer breaks, legal and special legal holidays or all land transportation services including but not limited to: public utility buses (PUBs) including Point-to-Point buses, public utility jeepneys (PUJs), taxis, UV expresses, transport network vehicle services (TNVs); and rail transit system such as metro rail transit (MRT), light rail transits (LRTs) and other railway s services.

However, Post-graduate students such as those taking up medicine, law, doctoral degrees and the like shall be excluded to avail of the said fare discount.

SECTION 3. Implementation. — Nothing in this Act shall prohibit the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to exercise its mandate to determine, prescribe and approve and periodically review and adjust fares, rates and other related charges as provided for in Executive Order 202. Likewise, the

Department of Transportation (DOTr) shall exercise its mandate to determine, prescribe and approve and periodically review and adjust fares, rates and other related services as to the operation of the railway systems.

The LTFRB and DOTr shall, after consultation with the stakeholders and concerned government agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* — If any portion of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and in effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulation and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly

SECTION 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,