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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 3964



Introduced by REP. JESUS MANUEL "BONG" C. SUNTAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Roads must be governed by law, not by fear or arbitrariness. Today, many law-abiding drivers, despite exercising defensive driving, face immediate detention in the aftermath of an accident. This results in undue hardship without advancing justice.

This bill defines defensive driving and protects motorists from unwarranted detention when they can promptly present credible and contemporaneous evidence—such as dashcam or CCTV footage—that they had complied with traffic laws before and during an accident. It balances this protection with the rights of law enforcement to impound vehicles, record identities, and pursue liability through due process.

The measure rewards vigilance, incentivizes transparency, and unclogs enforcement systems. Above all, it reaffirms the principle that liberty may be curtailed only upon fair and sufficient cause.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bong C. Suntay", written over a horizontal line.

REP. JESUS MANUEL "BONG" C. SUNTAY

1 **Republic of the Philippines**
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 **Quezon City**

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5 **First Regular Session**
6 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
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8 **House Bill No. 3964**
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10 Introduced by REP. JESUS MANUEL “BONG” C. SUNTAY
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12

13 **AN ACT DEFINING DEFENSIVE DRIVING AND PROVIDING FOR THE**
14 **PROTECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS INVOLVED IN A ROAD**
15 **ACCIDENT WITH SUFFICIENT PROOF OF THEIR DEFENSIVE DRIVING**

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

18 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Defensive Driving
19 Protection Act".

20 Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
21 defined as follows:

22 (a) *Defensive Driving* refers to a proactive approach to road safety and involves
23 anticipating and responding to potential hazards, keeping an appropriate
24 distance from other vehicles, and staying alert for possible risk on the road.

25 (b) *Dashboard Camera* refers to a camera that is mounted in or around the
26 dashboard of a motor vehicle. It faithfully records all it sees as the vehicle moves
27 about its daily business.

28 (c) *Law Enforcement Officer* refers to all officers of the law who exercise the
29 powers of arrest or detention.

30 Sec. 3. *Proof of Defensive Driving.* – Any person driving a motor vehicle who is
31 involved in a traffic accident shall not be detained by the law enforcement officer if he or
32 she can provide credible evidence of his or her defensive driving such as, but not limited
33 to the following:

34 (a) A dashcam video taken by the driver of the motor vehicle showing that he or
35 she was not violating any traffic laws before and during the incident;

1 (b) A closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage showing that the driver of the motor
2 vehicle was not violating any traffic rules before and during the incident; or

3 (c) Any other video footage or still image from any witness in the vicinity of the
4 incident showing that the driver of the vehicle was not violating any traffic rules
5 before and during the incident.

6 *Provided*, that the presentation of the foregoing evidence shall not exonerate the
7 driver of the motor vehicle from any liability under the law.

8 *Provided, further*, that any other person who suffered injury to himself or herself
9 or his or her property, or the heirs of the person who died due to the road accident shall
10 retain the right to pursue all other legal remedies available to them under the law.

11 *Sec. 4. Authority of the Law Enforcement Officer.* – Notwithstanding the
12 presentation of evidence under Section 3 of this Act, the law enforcement officer shall
13 have the authority to acquire and process the personal information of the driver of the
14 vehicle involved in the incident, and impound the vehicle involved in the incident, in
15 accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

16 *Sec. 5. Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
17 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
18 remain in force and effect.

19 *Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules
20 and regulations and other issuances, or any part thereof, inconsistent with this Act are
21 hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

22 *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

24 *Approved,*