

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4080



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Emergency medical transportation is a critical component of our nation's healthcare and disaster response systems. Despite their indispensable role as frontline responders, ambulance and patient transport drivers are often undertrained and overlooked.

This proposed legislation seeks to professionalize the role of medical transport drivers by establishing a standardized national training, certification, and licensing program. The measure would also provide for hazard pay, access to training grants, and other support mechanisms to maintain a high level of competency and professionalism.

The passage of this important legislation would demonstrate a strong commitment to public health and safety, while recognizing the vital contributions of those who provide crucial emergency care behind the wheel.

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


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
PROFESSIONALIZING DRIVERS OF AMBULANCE, PATIENT
TRANSPORT VEHICLES, AND SIMILAR EMERGENCY
TRANSPORT SERVICES, PROVIDING FOR THEIR
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, REGISTRATION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “**Ambulance and Patient Transport Drivers Professionalization Act.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* – It is a declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health and safety of every Filipino. In this pursuit, the State shall ensure that drivers of ambulances and patient transport vehicles are properly trained, equipped, and professionalized to competently respond to medical transport needs and emergencies.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) *Ambulance Driver* refers to any person authorized to operate a vehicle, primarily used for emergency medical transport, equipped with life-saving equipment;
- (b) *Patient Transport Vehicle Driver* refers to any person who operates non-emergency medical transport services for patients requiring medical support or monitoring during transit; and
- (c) *Professionalization* refers to the process of standardizing qualifications, training, and licensing of drivers under this Act to ensure high-quality, ethical, and competent service delivery.

SECTION 4. *Mandatory Certification and Training.* –

- a. All drivers of ambulances and patient transport vehicles shall undergo mandatory training on:
 - i. Basic Life Support (BLS);
 - ii. Defensive and emergency driving techniques;
 - iii. Emergency Medical Response protocols;
 - iv. Patient care and handling during transport; and
 - v. Traffic laws and ethical standards specific to emergency response.
- b. The Land Transportation Office (LTO), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and Technical Education and Skills Development Training (TESDA), shall develop and implement a National Training and Certification Program for such drivers within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Licensing and Registry.* –

- a. Only individuals who have completed the National Training and Certification Program shall be eligible to apply for a Special Professional Driver's License (SPDL) for ambulance and patient transport operations.
- b. The LTO shall maintain a Registry of Certified Medical Transport Drivers, accessible to hospitals, local government units (LGUs), and emergency response institutions.

SECTION 6. *Employment Requirement.* - All hospitals, both public and private, LGUs, emergency response agencies, and ambulance service providers shall hire only those drivers who possess valid certification and licensing under this Act.

SECTION 7. *Continuing Education and Re-Certification.* - Certified ambulance and patient transport vehicle drivers shall undergo mandatory re-certification every three (3) years, which includes:

- a. Refresher courses;
- b. Updates on new protocols and standards; and
- c. Physical and psychological fitness evaluations.

SECTION 8. *Incentives and Support.* -

- a. Certified drivers shall be entitled to:

- i. Hazard pay for emergency response assignments;
 - ii. Access to government training grants; and
 - iii. Priority inclusion in national emergency response drills and programs.
- b. LGUs and hospitals may offer additional local incentives to certified personnel.

SECTION 9. *Penalties.* - Any entity found employing uncertified drivers for ambulance or patient transport operations shall be fined not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) per violation and may face suspension of transport operation licenses.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the LTO, DOH, TESDA, and other concerned agencies shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,