

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4576



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

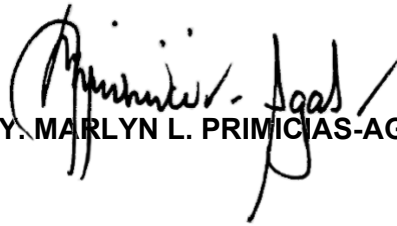
The volatility of global fuel prices continues to pose a significant challenge to the livelihood and welfare of Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) operators and drivers, who serve as the backbone of the country's public transport system. Sudden increases in fuel costs not only erode their daily earnings but also threaten the affordability and reliability of public transportation for millions of Filipinos.

Recognizing the vital role of PUV operators and drivers as prime movers of the economy, the State has a duty to provide timely and effective support to mitigate the impact of fuel price hikes. The experience of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), institutionalized under *Republic Act No. 11310*, demonstrates the value of targeted, transparent, and accountable subsidy programs in promoting social protection and economic resilience. In the same spirit, this bill seeks to institutionalize the Pantawid Pasada Fuel Program as a regular government initiative, providing direct fuel subsidies to qualified PUV operators and drivers.

By enacting this measure, Congress affirms its commitment to safeguarding the welfare of the transport sector, promoting economic stability, and ensuring that the benefits of government intervention reach those who need them most. The institutionalization of the Pantawid Pasada Fuel Program is a necessary step toward a more inclusive and responsive social protection system for all Filipinos.

To ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the program, the bill provides for clear eligibility criteria, periodic revalidation of beneficiaries, and the creation of an Advisory Council composed of key government agencies. It further mandates the regular publication of program reports and financial disclosures, in line with the government's commitment to open governance and responsible stewardship of public funds.

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


ATTY. MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID PASADA FUEL PROGRAM, PROVIDING
FUEL SUBSIDY TO QUALIFIED PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE OPERATORS AND
DRIVERS, 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 “*Pantawid Pasada Fuel Program Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uplift the standard of living and improve the quality of life of public utility operators and drivers in recognition of their role as prime movers of the economy. Towards this end, the State shall enact laws that will mitigate the impact of fuel price hike by providing fuel subsidy to qualified public utility vehicle operators and drivers.

SEC. 3. *Public Transport Assistance Program (PTAP).* - The Public Transport Assistance Program (PTAP), as embodied in Executive Order No. 32, Series No. 2011, is hereby established and institutionalized as a regular program of the national government to address the adverse effects of oil price increases to operators and drivers of public utility vehicles. The cash subsidy shall be given to qualified beneficiaries in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

SEC. 4. *Qualified Beneficiaries.* - The cash subsidy shall be given to operators and drivers of road-based motor vehicles that provide conveyance to the general public such as bus, jeepneys, and tricycles as determined by the LTFRB. Operators of public utility vehicles maintaining a fleet of more than five (5) units are excluded from availing cash subsidies under this Act. The LTFRB, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall maintain a list of qualified beneficiaries for a period of ten (10) years and shall conduct a revalidation of beneficiaries every two (2) years.

SEC. 5. Amount of Subsidy. - The amount of subsidy shall be based on the following schemes:

- a) Bus Operators and Drivers - shall receive a one-time subsidy per year which shall not be less than SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P7,500.00) but not more than TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00);
- b) Taxi and Van for Hire Operators and Drivers - shall receive a one-time subsidy per year which shall not be less than FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) but not more than SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (P7,500.00);
- c) Jeepney and Multicab Operators and Drivers - shall receive a one-time subsidy per year which shall not be less than FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) but not more than SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (P7,500.00); and
- d) Tricycle and Motorcycle Taxi (Habal Habal) Operators and Drivers - shall receive a one-time subsidy per year which shall not be less than THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) but not more than FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).

SEC. 6. Advisory Council. - An Advisory Council is hereby created to determine the amount of cash subsidy which shall be given to qualified beneficiaries, composed of the following:

- a. Secretary of Transportation as Chairperson;
- b. Chairperson of the LTFRB as Co-chairperson;
- c. Secretary of Energy;
- d. Secretary of Labor;
- e. Secretary of Budget and Management;
- f. Secretary of Finance; and
- g. Secretary of Interior and Local Government; as members.

The Advisory Council shall meet at least twice a year for its regular meeting and may call a special meeting in case of extraordinary increase in the price of fuel. The secretariat of the LTFRB shall act as the secretariat of the Advisory Council.

SEC. 7. Report of the Program. - The LTFRB shall annually publish a full report of the PTAP covering its implementation. The report shall be submitted to the President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate.

SEC. 8. Transparency Program. - The LTFRB shall regularly and timely post an update on its website a report of financial disclosures and information about the PTAP's beneficiaries based on geographical area, social, economic and cultural circumstances.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DOTr. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity 36 of this Act, the Chairperson of the LTFRB and the Secretary of the DOTr shall,

in coordination 37 with the Members of the Advisory Council, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the 38 effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and parts or provisions thereof that are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,